



## Vision for future of town centre to be revealed

OSWESTRY town centre is set to get an overhaul in the next two years – with even bigger ideas for the long term.

A vision of the short term future for Oswestry was due to be unveiled last night (Wednesday) with one of those behind the plans promising exciting times ahead.

A special Townscape and Trans-

port Group has been created and it has commissioned a study of how the town could be improved to attract more visitors.

The report has until now been kept under wraps but Oswestry Town Council's development and planning committee was due to hear the latest progress at a meeting last night.

The committee was due to hear

from David Ward, an experienced civil engineer who has offered his services to the Townscape and Transport Group.

It is thought that the new report has looked at changes to the traffic layout in the town centre.

But group chairman Councillor Chris Schofield said that first it wanted to concentrate on the

"townscape" to improve the look of Oswestry.

He said: "There are a number of quick fixes that really will improve Oswestry and we believe help the footfall in the town. I believe that this is a really exciting time for Oswestry."

Mr Ward will also talk about Oswestry Civic Society's 2050 report,

unveiled earlier this year. It looks ahead 30 years when, the civic society says, the population could have grown by around 10,000.

It suggests creating an eco-friendly village to the north of Oswestry. The vision also suggests a new public transport loop, linking the mainline train station in Gobowen with Oswestry.

# 600-HOME GREEN LIGHT WELCOMED

Report by Sue Austin

**BUSINESS** leaders have welcomed the decision to give the green light to the building of 600 homes in Oswestry, saying the growth will bring an economic boost to the town.

Shropshire Council's north planning committee gave approval to the application from J Ross Developments at a meeting on Tuesday.

The homes will be built over seven years on land north of Shrewsbury Road as part of the town's Sustainable Urban Extension. The outline permission was granted subject to conditions that include 10 per cent of the houses being affordable housing. Residents living in eastern Oswestry wrote to the council expressing their concerns that nearby residential roads will be used as rat-runs and the routes won't be able to cope with the extra traffic generated by the development.

However, highways officers said there were no transport issues standing in the way of the development. Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt, a county councillor, said his only concern was construction traffic. He said: "I wouldn't like to see construction traffic using the existing development roads. Folks in Oswestry realise this is a natural progression and extension for Oswestry and I support it."

The planning decision has been welcomed by Mark Derham, chairman of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce. He said: "It is only a good thing for the town, it is going to give the area an economic boost."

"With a local developer carrying out the work, that is only a good thing, and there will be a knock-on effect to local building companies and building suppliers. Everyone is having to build more homes and a development this size is only going to provide a boost to the area."

## Talented Terry is just wild about his new career



Terry Walsh from Forden has had a painting chosen for the David Shepherd Foundation wildlife artist of the year competition. Photo: Alan Fogarasy.

WHEN Terry Walsh gave up his job to concentrate on his love of painting, he could never have dreamt that within 12 months he would be shortlisted for the title of wildlife artist of the year.

The artist, who lives in Forden near Welshpool, will see his painting of wildebeest hung in an exhibition in the Mall Galleries in London on May 2 as part of the prestigious competition run by the David Shepherd Foundation.

David Shepherd, one of the world's great-

est wildlife artists and conservationists, died in September and Mr Walsh, 52, said he was deeply saddened that he would not get to meet him.

The painting, called Wildebeest, portrays a herd of the animals on their mass migration, about to cross a dangerous river.

The artist is self taught having given up a foundation art course to bring up his two children. He said: "I had been illustrating books, including the Mitzy and Matthew, Shropshire

Mice series and had just embarked on a foundation art course. But I had to give it up to dedicate my time to being a single dad and earning money."

He became a purchasing manager and worked until deciding last year to take some time out to go back to his love of painting.

He said: "I gave up work on March 31 last year, I suppose to take the equivalent of a gap year. To celebrate the year by being accepted for such a prestigious exhibition is fantastic."

### CRIME

## Police stepping up patrols as reports of damage increase

POLICE are stepping up patrols in Welshpool following 19 incidents of criminal damage since the turn of the year.

In the last two months a number of reports have been made to Dyfed-Powys Police about criminal damage and windows being smashed around the town.

Police have issued a host of pleas for information regarding various incidents and have now announced they will be carrying out additional patrols in the town centre. The latest incidents saw several reports of windows being smashed at premises between March 23 and 26 at locations in Church Street and Severn Street.

A 20-year-old man has been reported for causing damage to a window in Church Street. Inspector Jonathan Reses-Jones said the local force will be carrying out high visibility patrols.

He said: "There has been a spate of criminal damage in Welshpool over recent months and a plan has been put in place to find out who is responsible and combat further incidents. High visibility patrols will be carried out in the affected areas, and where possible CCTV footage is being viewed as part of the investigation into reported incidents."

### DRUGS

## Cannabis stash is found in playground

POLICE in Welshpool discovered a stash of skunk cannabis in a box in a children's play area in the town on Sunday.

Sergeant Greg Lovatt said: "Surely even a drug dealer would know it's not okay to stash your skunk in a communal children's play area?"

"The investigation continues following a successful warrant."

Officers also stopped a car on the A483 near Welshpool on Sunday and inside the car they discovered a stash of heroin.

● Raid – See Page 10

### INSIDE

## Tough trench life is remembered



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# Maternity unit once again hit by temporary closure

Report by Jonny Drury

**SERVICES** at Oswestry's maternity unit have again been hit by temporary closures – with health bosses saying “on-going issues” are to blame for the suspension of the services.

Women who were booked to give birth at Oswestry's Midwife Led Unit (MLU) were offered a birth at another unit or at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford during the temporary closure of services, which ran from 7.30pm on Thursday last week to 7.30am on Saturday.

The latest closure followed a series of service suspensions in the last few months. Anthea Gregory-Page, deputy head of midwifery at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), said the latest closure was due to on-going issues which led to the suspension of services at Oswestry MLU earlier last week.

She said: “I would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.”

Campaigners claim health bosses are closing the MLUs to drive down the number of births at the units so they can argue that women are choosing not to use the facilities. Health bosses have denied that claim. They say the closures are happening because women are choosing not to use the units for births and they say it's vital the midwives are where the mothers are.

One woman has said she was caught up in problems caused by the temporary closures of the birthing service at Oswestry MLU. Hannah Miller from Oswestry was due to give birth to her fourth child and after suffering strong contractions went to the unit on Tuesday last week. She later returned home and was told to stay in touch with midwives.

However when she rang back less than five hours later, she was informed health bosses had again closed the unit. She criticised the “constant inconsistency of service provision to the mums of Oswestry”.

She subsequently gave birth to a baby girl at Oswestry MLU on Monday morning this week.

## Plenty for families to do at visitor attraction



Holding a baby lionhead rabbit is general assistant Jo Walker at Park Hall Countryside Experience near Oswestry

PARK Hall Farm Countryside Experience has something for everyone across the Easter holidays with a packed schedule of events.

A Great Easter Egg Hunt will take place twice a day at 12pm and 3pm, which involves youngsters hunting in the hay around the farm for eggs, and the winner gets a chocolate egg.

Alongside this a detective hunt will take

place in the Easter garden, to solve an Easter mystery.

Another popular activity taking place will be the farm's Lambing Live event, with families and youngsters able to witness a live birth. Daily between 1pm and 2pm each day, families will be able to get involved with feeding lambs, grooming ponies, cuddling rabbits and lead heavy horses.

New for Easter is the sand and water

play activity zone, which includes a giant whirlpool, trickle tables, a wave tank, rocky rapids and a duck race.

Rain won't stop play as the two indoor play barns will be open over Easter, and a youngsters will also be able to take on the 3D climbing globe and a 40 metre zip wire. A whole host of other activities will be taking place across the Easter break and for more information call (01691) 67123.

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## Groups may be hit with business rates rise

COMMUNITY groups and village halls face paying hundreds of pounds in business rates.

Rate relief given by Shropshire Council to good causes may be cut.

That means groups including scouts, church halls, youth clubs and senior citizens clubs, will face having to find extra cash to foot the annual bill.

Since 2015, discretionary rate relief of up to 100 per cent has been granted to community interest companies and not for profit organisations.

But in a letter sent out to groups, Shropshire Council has given legal notice that from April 2019, these groups may no longer benefit. The extra bill will depend on buildings used by groups, but could be more than £1,000 for some.

A letter from the council's revenues and benefits service manager to community groups said: "It was agreed in 2015 that the current discretionary rate relief policy would be reviewed in 2018. Should there be any reduction or removal of discretionary relief awarded, then Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 dictates that those ratepayers affected should be given a financial years' notice. Subject to amendments made to our policy, the discretionary rate relief currently awarded will be reduced or totally removed with effect from April 1, 2019."

## Weather affects Easter activities

FLOOD alerts have been issued across Shropshire and Mid Wales after rain, sleet and snow hit the region.

Erdig Hall near Wrexham closed on Sunday because its car parks were waterlogged and when families went to enjoy the Easter Egg hunt at nearby Chirk Castle staff there had to turn people away in the afternoon because its car parks were full.

# Soldiers' poignant love story to become a movie

Report by Sue Austin

**THE love story of two soldiers during the Second World War, one based in Shropshire, is set to become a Hollywood movie.**

Gilbert Bradley and Gordon Bowsher defied the law to write more than 600 letters to each other during the war, letters that were bought at an auction by Mark Hignett from Oswestry Museum.

Now film director Andrew Vallentine has flown from Los Angeles to Oswestry to secure a deal to turn the story into a movie.

He says he wants to tell the story of two people in love to the world.

Mr Vallentine, who says it is very early stages in the project, said he was interested from the very first time he heard about the letters.

He said: "I emailed Mark and he let me read a few of the letters and immediately I thought 'this sounds like a movie' and knew that I wanted to be the one to make it."

"I am so thankful to Mark for finding these letters and for recognising that it was an important story that should be told. It is such an important point in time in our history."

"I want to find the best possible people to make this movie and of course, I have to find funding. The first thing I have to now do is read all of the 600 letters and find out more about Gordon and Gilbert. I am really excited."

The letters, which have already captured the hearts of people in Shropshire, were bought on eBay by Mr Hignett.

He said: "I bought them purely because of the link with Park Hall camp in Oswestry where Gilbert was stationed. At first I thought the 'G' signature on the letters to Gilbert was that of a woman but as I read more I realised it was another man."

He said one of the most telling letters written was one of the last which includes the line: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our letters could be published in the future in a more enlightened time. Then all the world could see how in love we are."

## Probe launched as graves damaged



Families have been left upset after damage was caused to memorials at Maesgwasted Cemetery

AN investigation is underway and families are demanding answers after a number of memorials at a cemetery were damaged by local authority grave diggers.

Several graves were damaged at Welshpool's Maesgwasted Cemetery by a mini digger driven by Powys County Council staff, who were preparing a grave for a burial.

Sarah Jones took to Facebook to write: "Just been up to Maesgwasted to my grandparents' grave. Furious and devastated the mess

that the gravediggers have made. They could have put boards down or even gone a different way."

Lucy Morgan found that ground on her gran and grandad's grave had been turned up, and another local resident Dean Gill added: "They have total disregard for everyone and everything up there, my dad's grave has been damaged again for the second time."

Powys County Councillor Graham Breeze criticised the "total disregard for people's feelings", and has

been informed an investigation is going to take place.

He asked anyone whose relative's graves have been damaged to write to Nigel Brinn, head of service, highways, transportation and recycling at Powys County Council at Spa East Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG. New cabinet member for highways Councillor Phyl Davies has apologised to the families for the distress the damage has caused and said remedial work will be carried out as soon as possible.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hospitals to get 30 new doctors

THIRTY new junior doctors will be taken on to cope with the demand on Shropshire's A&E departments and medical wards, at a cost of £1.8 million.

Simon Wright, chief executive of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust has announced funding for the additional doctors over the next two years.

He says the investment comes following discussions between senior members of staff, including doctors, nurses and other medical professionals.

Bosses say the move reflects the harsh demands of this winter.

### Nine homes bid is given green light

PLANS for nine homes near Welshpool have been given the green light.

AN & D Davies and Sons applied to build nine houses and vehicle access on land at Castle Caereinion.

The plans were passed at a Powys County Council planning committee meeting. The site is adjacent to a number of disused agricultural buildings which will be removed in order to free up space for a recently approved development for five dwellings.

### Drink-driver is banned from road

A MOTORIST has been disqualified from driving and has also been fined after admitting a drink-driving charge.

Ryan David Broomfield, 19, of Chirbury, Montgomery, was accused of driving on the A483 at Welshpool with a reading of 50 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

The legal limit is 35.

On Tuesday last week at Welshpool Magistrates Court, Broomfield pleaded guilty to the drink-driving charge.

He was fined £200 by the magistrates.

The court also banned him from driving for 12 months.

He was also ordered to pay £85 costs and a £30 victim surcharge.

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Ready - Tan Avital

# Tan takes on TV's island challenge

OSWESTRY'S Tan Avital is set to become a television star as he battles with hunger, creepy crawlies and living without any of our modern day luxuries.

Tan, or Nathaniel, 27, is one of the contestants on The Island with Bear Grylls which launched on

Channel 4 on Monday. He and 15 others were abandoned on an island for a month, having to find their own food, build their own shelters and deal with whatever came their way.

Tan, who studied law at Aberystwyth University and now works in

management in Cambridge, said: "It is all about attitude. What is important is having the determination and working hard. I can only thank my parents and Oswestry School for giving me the mindset to do both. They definitely helped me to cope with the time on the island. I

thought about them and my fiancée, Alice, a lot while I was there.

"My parents run the Upstairs Downstairs store in Oswestry and have worked hard all their lives to build the business from scratch. Oswestry School taught me to be resilient and to work hard."

# Parking charge challenge is rejected by councillors

Report by Keri Trigg

**NO changes will be made to controversial new parking charges across Shropshire after a second bid to have the fees reviewed was rejected.**

New fees approved by Shropshire Council's cabinet in January will see all car parks and on-street zones sorted into seven bands as part of a new "linear pricing" approach.

The charges range from £2.50 per hour in band one, to no charge in band seven. After the strategy was passed, it was called in for a review by the council's Liberal Democrat group and debated by the authority's place overview committee, which said no changes should be recommended to cabinet.

However, it was decided that the call-in had initially been brought before the wrong committee and it was taken back for a second time to be discussed by the performance management scrutiny committee.

But the decision was a repeat of the initial verdict as it was dismissed for a second time. The group's main concerns surrounded charges at Ludlow's Castle Street Car Park - set in band three at £1 per hour - along with the three car parks in Wem, which will rise from 10p per hour to 30p under the new strategy.

The call-in also asked the committee to recommend retaining the free on-street parking in Ludlow after 6pm rather than charge until 8pm as planned.

But after hearing the concerns, Councillor Gwilym Butler - who chaired the place overview meeting last month that first rejected the call-in - proposed, again, that no changes be recommended to cabinet. His proposal was voted through.

## New business to create 30 jobs



**An artist's impression of the new petrol station and convenience store near Welshpool**

AROUND 30 new jobs are set to be created when a petrol station and convenience store opens on the outskirts of Welshpool this summer.

Work on the £3 million development on land at the entrance to the Buttington Cross Enterprise Park is underway.

The site was made available by the Welsh Government, and is being developed by Delves and Co Ltd, trading as Tuffins Supermarket, which already has stores in Craven Arms and Builth Wells. An 18-week

building contract was awarded to SCF Forecourts, to build a petrol station, convenience store and a car wash.

Commercial director of Delves and Co, Harry Delves, believes a large amount of business is being lost to nearby towns, because of a lack of roadside stores in the Welshpool bypass.

He said: "The site is ideally placed off the roundabout to attract passing trade and farmers attending Welshpool Livestock Market."



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OSWESTRY & BORDER  
**CHRONICLE**

# Pregnant stable-hand was wrongfully dismissed

Report by Jonny Drury

**A STABLE-HAND who was sacked two weeks after informing her boss she was pregnant was wrongfully dismissed, an employment judge has ruled.**

Alison Parsons, 27, had worked at the Oswestry Equestrian Centre in Selatyn since February 2016. Despite not having set hours, she regularly worked around 16 hours a week. An employment tribunal in Telford in January heard how she told the centre's joint owner, Richard Connell, that she was pregnant, but wanted to work as long as possible.

## Council has a cabinet re-shuffle

A CABINET re-shuffle has taken place at Powys County Council after a councillor stepped down from his role due to ill health.

County Councillor for Meifod Jonathan Wilkinson, who was cabinet member for housing, has stepped down, and leader Rosemarie Harris has taken the opportunity to re-shuffle the cabinet, and reduce it from 10 members to eight. Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick, who was the cabinet member for highways, has lost his position, with other roles being allocated to serving cabinet members. Councillor Harris thanked Councillor Fitzpatrick for his "time and dedication" to the cabinet.

Deputy leader Aled Davies, who is already cabinet member for finance, will be responsible for countryside and transport, with Councillor James Evans now responsible for housing.

Councillor Rachel Powell is cabinet member for young people and culture, Myfanwy Alexander is responsible for learning and Welsh language, Martin Weale for economy and planning, and Phyl Davies is now responsible for highways, recycling and assets.

Councillor Stephen Hayes will remain as cabinet member for adult social care.

However two weeks later he told her she was no longer needed as there was not enough work for her. In a report to the hearing published this week, employment judge Christopher Gaskell found that the claimant was wrongfully dismissed in breach of her contract.

The unanimous judgement at the tribunal was that the respondent, Mr Connell, discriminated against the claimant because of her pregnancy. Miss Parsons told the tribunal that she and three other stable-hands worked out their own rotas to ensure there was always plenty to cover and they were paid according to the hours worked each week. In January 2017 she found she was pregnant and told Mr Connell the baby was due in September, but she wanted to continue working.

In response to the claim of unfair dismissal, Mr Connell insisted that Miss Parsons had resigned from her employment rather than having been dismissed. However his partner, Maria Castillo gave evidence that the claimant's employment had not been terminated either by dismissal or resignation, and that indeed her employment was continuing.

Mr Connell then stated the same, but the judge found that the witness statement from him served on the claimant differed in content to that provided at the tribunal.

In the report, employment judge Gaskell said the tribunal had no hesitation in concluding that Miss Parsons was dismissed.

Miss Parsons, he said, was wrongfully dismissed and therefore entitled to damages for breach of contract. A further hearing will be held to finalise the financial settlement.

## Restored signal box to reopen



The Oswestry South signal box has been restored by volunteers

AN historic railway signal box that has stood virtually unused for half a century is to reopen later this year.

The Oswestry South signal box has been restored by volunteers on the Cambrian Heritage Railway as part of its plans to run trains once again to Weston wharf just outside the town. Built in 1892, Oswestry South was operational until the 1970s.

Unlike much of the town's railway infrastructure, it escaped demolition in the late 1960s and early 70s, but was stripped of its contents.

Volunteers reinstalled the traditional frame of levers recovered from the Wellington signal box. During an open day on May 12 members of the public will be able to visit and see just how mechanical signal boxes, once common across the country, operated. Railway chairman Rob Williams said an expert would be on hand to explain to the public how everything works.

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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Councillors came to their senses in Welshpool last week when they abandoned a controversial plan to stop the police using the town's CCTV system unless they paid to do so – threatening to reclaim the keys currently made available to local officers.

Town councillors were clearly over-reacting to fears that Welshpool might be left behind when Dafydd Llewelyn, Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, rolls out a new CCTV system across the two counties and saw sense just before locking the doors. It wasn't a straightforward decision however but the weight of opinion finally came down on the side of common sense after hearing assurances that Welshpool will be part of the second phase of CCTV improvements to be funded by the commissioner. We can all get upset and we can all get angry but we can't use public money to express those feelings. And a lot of public money – local council tax money – has already gone into making Welshpool the envy of the rest of Powys when it comes to its CCTV system. It would have been extremely reckless to risk damaging all the hard work and dedication already shown to make that possible. Of course there's a history behind this situation. Mr Llewelyn's predecessor made promises to Welshpool that weren't kept and he was also a strong voice in opposition to the value of CCTV to his police force. At least Mr Llewelyn is an outspoken advocate of CCTV and its contribution to fighting crime and is willing to spend millions giving Dyfed and Powys the best possible coverage which will be linked, centrally controlled and consistently monitored. Now Welshpool Town Council has voted to take its turn and that is the right decision. The commissioner has bigger priorities. Following the tragic death of Montgomery young farmer James Corfield at last year's Royal Welsh Show he has Built Wells at the top of the first phase list and crime-hit Newtown is up there too as a priority. Yes, it would have been nice if the commissioner had recognised the work done by Welshpool Town Council in keeping the CCTV system running without any financial backing since Powys County Council withdrew support. And yes it would have been nice if he had used the town as an example to the rest. But I am utterly convinced that Welshpool's CCTV system will in time be improved at no cost to the town council and linked to the most up-to-date digital systems in the country.



Glyn Davies with hospital boss Simon Wright



Health secretary Jeremy Hunt with Philip Dunne



Changes in Shropshire's health system are planned

# Politicians welcome key health funding decision

**A huge shake-up of health services has taken a major leap forward. JONNY DRURY reports**

**POLITICIANS have welcomed the news that Shropshire will get more than £300 million to pay for a huge health shake-up.**

Building work on a new county emergency centre could begin as early as next year.

The government has confirmed it will give the county more than £300 million to pay for the reconfiguration of its two main hospitals – Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital Telford.

The funding announcement has cleared the way for NHS England to provide its final, formal approval for the long-awaited public consultation on Future Fit to begin.

Health commissioners have said they expect consultation on the plans to begin in May, although exact details are yet to be finalised.

The consultation is expected to last at least 12 weeks and will allow people to attend meetings and drop-in events.

Simon Wright, chief executive of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust said building work is likely to take a few years, adding: "You are looking at probably seeing building work starting in 2019/2020."

He said he was "absolutely delighted" that funding had been approved. Mr Wright said the shake-up of hospital services will help solve staffing problems and cut down on the cancellation of planned operations, due to the proposed



The funding will bring massive changes to Shropshire's NHS

separation of emergency and planned care. He said: "The importance of this for the county cannot be understated. I've got no doubt in my mind that we will see consultants wanting to join the trust."

"The most important thing is the certainty it provides. It makes it easier for us to promote our services to new applicants. It allows us to make sure we have facilities that are fit for the future."

"This has been a long process and there has been a lot said in various quarters, but until now the most important people – our patients, relatives and loved ones – have not had their chance to look at the proposals in detail or to share their views."

The news that the Future Fit programme will progress has been wel-

comed by local politicians. Glyn Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, said: "For many years, I have been working for a new Emergency Care Hospital at Shrewsbury to serve Shropshire and Mid Wales."

"It is truly brilliant news that the Secretary of State, Jeremy Hunt has announced that over £300 million is to be allocated to build this new hospital – the biggest investment in the NHS this year."

"It is also fantastic news for Montgomeryshire, and is just reward for all the work that has led up to this decision. The next step is a public consultation. I hope to speak to groups around Montgomeryshire to outline the position, and encourage as many people as possible to respond. There is no reason

why we cannot now go 'full steam ahead' and I expect design and tendering work to be finalised quickly and to see diggers on site early next year."

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has also welcomed the investment and urged people to support the public consultation.

Former health minister Philip Dunne welcomed the £312 million.

The Ludlow MP had previously called on his former boss, Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt, to ensure funding was in place to make the plan a reality.

Mr Dunne said: "This is great news for Shropshire. I am delighted the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care have recognised Shropshire's case, which I articulated ahead of the Spring Statement, that the case for improving services in Shropshire should be a top priority for NHS England."

"We have secured the commitment to back the NHS in Shropshire to build state-of-the-art acute care, and improve care in the community, fit for the future."

"The £312m funding represents the largest investment in healthcare in the UK by the NHS so far this year, and is the biggest public sector investment in healthcare in Shropshire ever."

People will have the chance to put forward their views on two options.

The preferred option which has been put forward by Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) includes siting the county's emergency department at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Under that model, Telford's Princess Royal Hospital would take on responsibility for providing planned care.

The second option would be for Princess Royal Hospital to house Shropshire's emergency department and for Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to become the planned care site.

## WORKING FOR YOU



There is one dominating story over recent days – the decision by UK Government, to commit £312million to funding hospitals reform to serve Shropshire and Mid Wales. It's a decision that many of us have worked for over many years, wondering whether this day would ever arrive. Last week it arrived – a brilliant Easter present for the people of Shropshire and Mid Wales. Over the last 10 years (at least) I have been involved in active discussion about what has to be done to deliver a sustainable hospital structure to serve Shropshire and Mid Wales. I have known roughly what was needed for over 40 years. The reality is that the population of Shropshire and Mid Wales is about 500,000 and can sustain only one major hospital providing all secondary care. The only feasible way forward today is to accept the current position and run the two existing hospitals as one unit, operating on two sites, with 'emergency care' at one and 'planned care' at the other. A new hospital to replace both (which most of us would really prefer) is off the wall expensive. We have known all this for years. Our hospital services have suffered because we have not faced up to the difficult 'political' decisions needed. Millions of precious NHS resources have been squandered as a consequence of 'political posturing', a refusal to accept reality. But at long last, the end is in sight. After a lot of lobbying and argument we have reached today's position. The UK Government has allocated the £312 million needed to transform one hospital (recommended to be the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital) into a centre for Emergency Care (a "hot" emergency care hospital) and the other (recommended to be Telford's Princess Royal Hospital) into a centre for planned care. This will be the biggest investment by NHS England in the UK this year. The next step will be for the local Clinical Commissioning Groups to authorise going out to a 12-week public consultation, probably from about early May. If the public support the 'preferred option' (and it would be unthinkable not to) the project design and tendering processes will begin. I can see no reason why we cannot anticipate "diggers in the ground" early next year. Over the 12-week consultation period I will be arranging public meetings around Montgomeryshire to explain what has been a quite incredible journey, over many years, to reach the current position.

Glyn Davies  
Montgomeryshire MP

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# Is a state-owned railway a reality?

IS it unrealistic to hope or a state-owned profit making railway system?

On 16/2/65 details of the rail closures based on the Beeching Report were released and although a Conservative government "set up" the report ("set up" sums up some of the report well) a Labour government decided to go ahead and implement most of the 1963 report.

Everyone in government it seems was swept away with modernity, motorways,

motor cars and maybe having shares and friends in the road building companies.

The current Labour Party has a potential vote winner in re-nationalising the railways if they can convince us they have costed it properly, that they see it as eventually self financing and certain rail unions would not see a new public sector industry as a soft touch to regularly hold to ransom.

The bill to build HS2 is £56 billion. Scrap

it and gradually invest that money to bring the current rail network up to standard and take back all the private franchises when they lapse. And dare I whisper it, rebuild some of the old network? That would take some long term political agreement and thinking on all sides and looking well beyond the next General Election.

What chance I wonder?  
**PETER STEGGLES  
Longnor**

# Spare thought for plight of our more rural communities

SHROPSHIRE Council's financial exigencies have led to more and more services being passed over to local (town and parish) councils to fund... if they can, or to abandon, if they can't.

This started many years ago with public lavatories, more recently and much bigger, the leisure centres, and now the libraries in our 14 smaller market towns.

The half dozen larger towns always score well: they retain Shropshire Council support.

More and more, residents across the county are forced to travel to one of them for services.

Places with low or scattered population, have smaller councils with very much smaller budgets.

It is inevitable that these rural areas will see facilities slipping away.

They have not been on a par with the big towns to start with.

A town like Bishop's Castle, for example, with perhaps 1,000 households, simply hasn't the tax base to step in when the county withdraws. There is no lack of will. Some of these places have courageously raised their precept by very significant percentages in recent years. But there is a tight limit.

Are we to see the rural areas become a desert for public services, with residents being dependent on long car journeys (if affordable and feasible) to access such things? Their protest is that small numbers of people in small communities cannot counter the weight of numbers in towns such as Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

It is to be hoped that the council leader, Peter Nutting, will hold to his undertaking to give greater emphasis to the needs of rural Shropshire.

**RITA BAKER  
Lydbury English Centre**

# Not really sure if the council's sums all add up

SHROPSHIRE Council says it will deliver £43 million of savings in a bid to plug its financial black hole - how?

They have just blown £53 million on three shopping centres.

They plan to spend another £18 million on the Shirehall refurbishment.

I make that £71 million.

With running maintenance costs we're looking at yet more expense.

Also with the number of empty shops and retail moving away from the high street to the internet, you have to question the logic behind these purchases.

The county council plans to cut highways maintenance and £500,000 from adult services.

I must be missing something.

We will have less services continue to drive on pothole-ridden roads, which damage our cars and possibly put us in danger.

So we get less services, they raise council tax by 5.9 per cent.

**ROD SHAW  
Shrewsbury**

# Schoolgirls enjoy a day away from classroom



These girls are quite a way from home in Oswestry. They are Oswestry Girls' High School schoolgirls on a trip to Wenlock Abbey in Much Wenlock in June 1960. The picture came to us originally from former pupil Gill Roberts, nee Hampson.

# Throw out the bad apples, not the entire barrel

REGARDING Oxfam - is this a case of the pot calling the kettle black?

Desmond Tutu says that he has withdrawn his support for Oxfam following the disgraceful behaviour of some of the staff in Haiti.

Has he forgotten the numerous cases of abuse and cover-ups within the church over recent years?

They did not stop him supporting the church.

Bad news always makes the biggest headlines and we should be wary of tarring everyone with the same brush.

The people responsible for those acts need sorting out but there are thousands of Oxfam workers around the world working very hard to try and improve the lives of those in need. To stop supporting will cause even greater hardship for those people who are already desperately in need of the basics to survive.

Clear out the bad apples but don't throw the whole barrel away.

**TERRY HILLIER  
Llanymynech**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Readers' Letters,  
The Chronicle,  
14 Salop Road,  
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

### EMAIL

iajn.stjohn@  
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

# Police need to look at priorities

CHIEF Constable Anthony Bangham, appropriate name, would apply zero tolerance to all speed limits.

Police abdicated traffic responsibilities but vehicles and drivers are their milk cows. Will we see the West Mercia force on all motorway bridges picking up those in the outside lane at 71 mph? I think not for fear of public outcry.

As police numbers again reduce and crime in all areas again increases, police should prioritise efforts.

**JOHN MAYNE  
Bridgnorth**

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Further searches revealed more than £3,200 in coins hidden in a compartment in the boot, which was accessed by a secret switch installed in an arm rest hatch. In total, £4,000 was discovered by police. The compartment contained cash boxes, bags of coins, a cordless drill, a power saw and batter packs.

The open day and race takes place between 1pm and 3pm at the station and along the nearby canal. For further information about the charity go to [children-withcancer.org.uk](http://children-withcancer.org.uk)

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## New water company for Welsh customers

A NEW water company has been launched solely for Severn Trent's Welsh customers.

Ofwat, the water regulator, has approved Severn Trent's application to vary its licence, to create a company dedicated to customers in Wales.

The new company is called Hafren Dyfrdwy, and will have its headquarters in Packsaddle, near Wrexham.

The new company will provide services to around 100,000 customers and 7,000 businesses.

Sarah Bentley, chief customer officer at Severn Trent, said the new company will offer the best service for Welsh customers.

She said: "The change will allow us to ensure that we bring the best of both companies together and also ensure we have the right local focus for our customers in each country."

"There's nothing that our customers need to do."

"We will be sending out information about the launch of Hafren Dyfrdwy or the move to Severn Trent over the coming weeks – and customers can carry on enjoying their water in the same way they always have."

The new company comes after Severn Trent acquired Dee Valley Water.

The majority of Wales is served by Welsh Water, however most residents in Montgomeryshire are served by Severn Trent. AM for the area, Russell George added: "I was pleased to attend recent meetings of the consumer council for Water in both the National Assembly in Cardiff and in Newtown, where I was keen to promote that the consumers' voice be heard loud and clear throughout the changes which will see the introduction of a new water company to serve Mid Wales, Hafren Dyfrdwy."

# Council building is due to be sold or rented out

Report by Jonny Drury

**A COUNCIL building is set to be sold or rented out.**

In a private session of a Powys County Council cabinet meeting, members discussed the closure of its Neuadd Maldwyn building in Welshpool.

The premises has housed a number of council staff for many years. It was also the home of the Montgomeryshire committee, although the group was axed earlier this year as part of a council cost-cutting measure. Now the authority has decided to close the building at the earliest opportunity, with back office services being transferred to Newtown. The building, on Severn Road, will then be sold off or let so the council will no longer be responsible for maintenance.

At the cabinet meeting, councillors agreed that "subject to establishing a cost-effective alternative front-line location in Welshpool, Neuadd Maldwyn is to be closed at the earliest opportunity with the majority of back office services being transferred to Newtown."

However, the local authority has said a front-line presence will be retained in the town. Delegated authority will be given to the portfolio holder for property, Councillor Phyl Davies, to determine where that will be. Councillor Davies said: "The county council has been reviewing office accommodation in north Powys, particularly buildings and office accommodation in Newtown and Welshpool to assess their suitability for future service delivery. The review has examined the buildings to see if they are fit-for-purpose for both front office and back office functions and will support the council's move towards an 'agile' working model."

## Historic medieval coins unearthed



Short cross coins found near Oswestry by metal detectorists

MORE medieval coins dating back 800 years have been unearthed in north Shropshire.

The seven short cross silver coins were dug up by metal detectorists from the USA and Australia, on land near Oswestry in the county's second medieval find of the year.

Chris Langston, who runs the company Metal Detecting Holidays, found the coins with a group of international metal detectorists from around the world last week.

The coins are thought to date back to between 1180 and 1247, but Mr Langston is yet to reveal where exactly the haul was detected.

The new find means 14 short cross coins have been found in Shropshire in recent months, after seven of the coins were found by separate group in September. The hoard is now being dealt with by the Shropshire Finds Liaison Officer Peter Reavell.

Mr Langston, who organises metal detecting holidays in the area, said: "Finding a hoard is a metal detectorist's dream find and everyone involved in the discovery are very happy to have saved 800 years of history."

"It is exciting for everyone involved."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hospital hits financial targets

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital has met its monetary targets a month before the end of the financial year, bosses have heard.

It means the hospital will qualify for special government funding.

Director of finance Craig Macbeth told the hospital's trust board that the organisation had a strong month in February.

The hospital in Gobowen recorded an in-month surplus of £209,000, £79,000 above the recovery plan, Mr Macbeth said.

He said: "This is in line with our original financial trajectory."

"As a result we will be eligible to qualify for our Sustainability and Transformation Funding which goes to trusts who meet their financial target."

### Choir concert set to help charities

THE London Welsh Male Voice Choir will be performing in Oswestry later this year.

The choir from the capital will be joined by guest artists Samantha Lewis, a mezzo-soprano, and guitarist Jack Hancher.

The event will take place at Holy Trinity Church in Oswestry on June 16 at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £18 for adults and £9 for children/students.

They are available from Music Makers and Rowanthorn in Oswestry, Eirianfa Stores, Penybontfawr, Gegin Fach, Llanrhaeadr and from Haydn Jones on (01691) 658414.

Mr Jones said: "The concert is to benefit two charities, Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of my father John David Jones who sang for local male voice choirs and for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund in memory of a good friend, Peter Davies."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rats disrupt rail services

RATS led to bank holiday disruption in Shropshire after they gnawed through cables – stopping all services on a major line.

Arriva Trains Wales was left apologising to passengers when the company was forced to halt all trains between Shrewsbury and Welshpool on Monday afternoon.

Signal technicians discovered the damage and engineers were called in to carry out an emergency replacement of the cables.

A spokesman for the firm said: "Signalling technicians have found that rats have gnawed through cabling in the Welshpool area."

### AM makes call for sustainability

MONTGOMERYSHIRE Assembly Member Russell George has called for everyone to make a small change in their everyday lives to live more sustainably.

The politician gave his backing to the recent WWF's Earth Hour campaign 2018 – the global movement to protect the planet.

Last year in Wales, an estimated 280,000 took part in WWF's Earth Hour, as did every single local authority in the country.

Mr George said: "We know that climate change is going to have a massive impact on the way we all live our lives, but if individuals take small steps to live more sustainably, and if politicians take action to protect and restore our seas, create a green economy and tackle climate change, we can help by doing our bit."

# Legal battle over flats plan moves step closer

Report by Deborah Hardiman

**A LEGAL battle over plans to build flats at a former social club is a step closer following council discussions.**

Welshpool Town Council wants to stop Mid Wales Properties Ltd demolishing Welshpool Social Club, and building 17 flats.

Last month Powys County Council gave the green light to the scheme.

Now the town council is seeking legal advice over concerns that procedures were not properly followed by county planners before the decision was taken.

Objections to the scheme included traffic grounds, concerns about access for residents and emergency service vehicles.

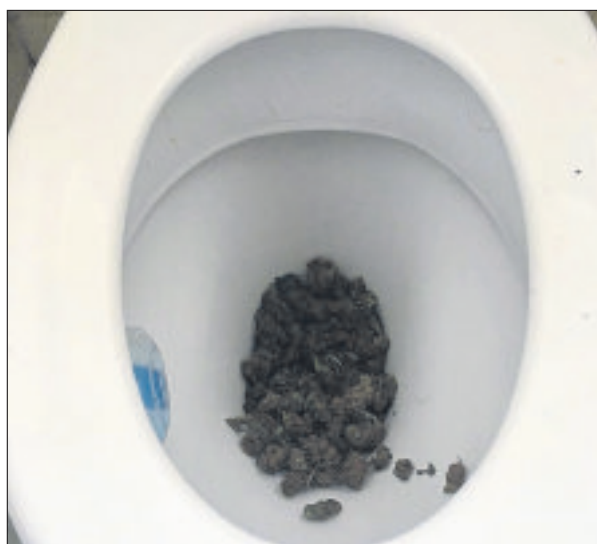
But the planning committee gave it the thumbs-up, saying there had been a previous use of the building, a former social club, and that more cars were using the area back then.

Town Clerk Robert Robinson told a full council meeting last week that he had held talks with the council's solicitor and was advised to contact a specialist barrister at a cost of £1,000 to seek advice over an appeal against the county's decision to allow the scheme.

The members at the meeting approved the action.

In addition, the councillors also approved moves to develop new proposals to revamp Welshpool Market and the town hall car park as part of a town centre business improvement plan.

## Drug dealer flushed out in police raid



The police image of what appears to be drugs in the toilet

A SUSPECTED drug dealer was unsuccessful in an attempt to avoid getting caught by police – after blocking a toilet in a desperate effort to flush away cannabis.

Officers from Welshpool Police reported the unsavoury attempt after a drugs sting over the weekend.

In an effort to hide the evidence there was an attempt to allegedly try and get rid of the cannabis down the toilet, according to police involved in the action.

Tweeting after the drug bust in the town, Welshpool Police said: "Notice to any would-be drug dealers.

"If police knock at the door cannabis doesn't flush easily."

An image tweeted with the comments by the police showed a toilet bowl full of what appears to be cannabis.

The officers also tweeted that it was 'not pleasant' recovering the evidence.

Anyone with any information about the supply of drugs in the Dyfed-Powys Police area is asked to contact officers on the 101 line.

## Merger idea for councils is greeted with criticism

A POLITICIAN has criticised Welsh Government plans to merge councils across Wales.

A statement by the cabinet secretary for local government and public services resurrected Welsh Government plans that could see Wales's 22 councils merged to as few as 10.

The plans do not include Powys, which will remain as a stand-alone authority, however mergers include Flintshire and Wrexham, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, and Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

Mark Isherwood, Assembly Member for North Wales, believes big organisations are not always the best way forward.

He said: "Last time they tried this, I was a member of the Assembly Committee which scrutinised what they were up to.

"The evidence we received showed that they were ignoring the analysis which local authorities must undertake to show that the benefits outweigh the costs before committing to any expenditure alone or with other authorities.

"It is scandalous that the Welsh Government considers that such financial discipline with public money should not apply to itself.

"As the Welsh Local Government Association said 'this announcement has caused disquiet and confusion', and 'the proposals are yet to be fully costed and most academic analysis concludes that such reform programmes rarely deliver the savings or changes in performance that were hoped'."

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## Sex offender is jailed for 32 months

A SEX offender described by a judge as "infatuated" with a young teenage girl has been sent to prison.

Shaun Brook, 31, of Prince Street, Oswestry, was sentenced to 32 months in prison at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

He pleaded guilty to sexual activity with a child and engaging in sexual communication with a child.

Judge Anthony Lowe said Brook was "infatuated" with the girl and did not show any predatory behaviour.

However, the court heard that after he was arrested and released on police bail, he continued to contact her via social media. Siobhan Collins, prosecuting, said the girl had been left feeling used and taken advantage of.

In mitigation, Debra White said Brook had shown "genuine remorse" and admitted full responsibility for his actions.

He was ordered to sign the sex offenders register and was given a restraining order against the victim and her family for five years.

# Rotarians enjoy a play date

MEMBERS of Oswestry Rotary Club visited The Movement Centre at Gobowen recently to see for themselves the new soft play building blocks that were purchased with the donation from the 2017 Tree of Light Appeal.

President Dave Davies, appeal organiser Mike Jones and rotarian Denzil Ellis were shown the blocks and met some of the staff from the centre which provides a specialist therapy called Targeted Training for children who have problems with their movement control. With this help, a child is up to four times more likely to gain control of their movement than with traditional physiotherapy alone and can gain head control and develop the skills to sit unaided so they can play and interact with their friends and family. Fundraiser and physiotherapy assistant Curtis Langley thanked the Tree of Light sponsors and said: "We are very grateful for the contribution of the Tree of Light Appeal towards our work."

Physiotherapy assistant Lynne Ford and physiotherapist Sarah Bew also met the rotarians.



Rotarians Mike Jones, Denzil Ellis and Dave Davies with Curtis Langley, Lynne Ford and Sarah Bew

# Wartime show to return to stage

Report by Sue Austin

A **STANDING ovation** for a new First World War musical has sparked an encore for the production.

Poppyfields – The Musical, received such a positive response when it was premiered in Shrewsbury that it will return to Theatre Severn in September for four further performances.

Poppyfields has been written by writer John Howard with fellow ex-Oswestry Boys High School friends over the past eight years.

When it was first performed on the stage at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn in February the cast members were overwhelmed to see audiences rise to their feet in a standing ovation.

The reaction prompted the show's production team to announce a return to Theatre Severn in September for four further performances.

Mr Howard said theatre goers were reduced to tears as poppies fell from the ceiling of the main auditorium.

The story had woven its way from the Homefront in 1916, to the heart of the trenches on the Western Front, ending with a moving Finale of Remembrance.

The writer says he hopes the musical will be seen as a welcome contribution to this year's centenary commemorations.

"The standing ovations shocked the cast and possibly the audience," he said. "As one, the whole theatre rose and applauded and cheered for a frantic three minutes. No one in the cast, amateur or professional, had witnessed anything like it before. We have decided that this cannot be the end, so are excited to announce the extra performance dates in September 2018."

"These will now fall within the excellent 'Hundred Days Programme'



Some of the cast of Poppyfields - The Musical

planned for Shropshire, ending on November 11, exactly one hundred years since fighting stopped in 1918."

The day after the final performance in February, assistant director, Dave Hughes-Beddoes took the poppy wreath that was used in The Finale of Remembrance on stage across the

Channel with him and laid it at Menin Gate in Ypres. Tickets for the newly scheduled, final four performances from September 13 to 15, including a Saturday matinee can be purchased by calling the Box Office on (01743) 281281 or via the website [www.theatresevern.co.uk](http://www.theatresevern.co.uk).

## Tourism vision is presented

THE future vision for Mid Wales tourism has been presented to the Welsh Government Minister for Tourism at an event hosted by Montgomeryshire Assembly Member Russell George.

Last year Mr George revealed that the Welsh Government didn't spend a single penny of its £8.3 million budget on specifically promoting Mid Wales as a tourist destination.

In an effort to ensure that the industry is in the driving seat in promoting

Mid Wales's unique tourism offer, Mr George invited a number of groups to meet Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, the Welsh Government's Minister for Culture, Tourism & Sport to discuss the future and to hear from the Lake Vyrnwy Marketing Association about its vision for the future.

Following the meeting, Mr George said: "I would like to thank Lord Elis-Thomas for meeting with me and representatives from the tourism industry at Lake Vyrnwy to hear our thoughts

on how we strengthen Mid Wales Tourism."

"The Lake Vyrnwy Marketing Association are a very proactive group and I was pleased they had the opportunity to discuss ideas with the minister."

"Tourism is a critical driver in economic development and job creation in Mid Wales and I want to see the Welsh Government do more to foster the right conditions for growth in this crucial sector for the Mid Wales economy."

## Airbus visit for 41 Club members

OSWESTRY 41 Club members got a privileged view of the biggest Airbus being manufactured during a recent day out.

In a tour booked a year ago, members of the organisation saw first hand work taking place at Broughton in building the massive wings.

The wings are needed to lift the 73m long aircraft – capable of carrying 538 passengers on two decks – at 633mph.

The 20-strong party heard how the huge finished A380 wings had to go by barge to Mostyn Docks.

They were told the wings were then transferred by custom built ships to Bordeaux.

They also watched an equally huge Beluga Aircraft take off carrying a pair of the smaller A320 wings, direct to Airbus in Toulouse.

Club member David Parry-Jones thanked tour guide Shaun Maloney for an "eye opening" glimpse of the work in building the world's biggest aircraft.

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## The benefits of thermal imaging are spelt out

THERMAL imaging fits well within poultry farming, where accurate temperatures are vital for the welfare of livestock, experts from a local firm have said.

O.R.P Surveillance, experts in thermal imaging systems, design systems that gain the most from this technology platform. Their infrared cameras create a complex picture of the thermal environment, covering floor temperature, ventilation and the condition of housing, which is continually updated. A spokesman from the firm said: "During brooding, thermometers can be poor indicators of the actual floor temperature due to warm air rising. O.R.P Surveillance's cameras give a detailed picture of the temperature of the floor, highlighting hot and cold spots. Where a non-contact thermometer takes one measurement, thermal imaging cameras take tens of thousands of measurements. O.R.P Surveillance's thermal imaging cameras can be used to determine the condition of equipment.

"An insulated wall or ceiling that appears, to the naked eye, to be sound, may be proven to be compromised when viewed through thermal imaging. Likewise, the performance of a radiant heater that appears to be working normally may, through the use of our cameras, be shown to be inadequate. Adding to all of this the convenience of being able to view this technology from a mobile phone or tablet device from anywhere around the world, means that O.R.P Surveillance is at the forefront of a technology which is making poultry farming easier to manage."

# Open day event 'never been more important'

Report by Jonny Drury

**AN initiative that aims to connect the public to the countryside for one-day only "has never been more important", according to its organisers.**

With public access to the environment on the Government agenda, LEAF Open Farm Sunday, taking place on June 10, aims to unite the food and farming industry to demonstrate to the public what British farmers deliver.

Open Farm Sunday is managed by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), an organisation educating the public on sustainable food and farming.

Caroline Drummond, chief executive of LEAF, said: "The need to connect people with farming and what it delivers has never been more important. LEAF Open Farm Sunday provides the perfect platform to showcase the whole farming industry and the values, quality and high standards delivered by farmers and growers.

"By uniting our world-leading food and farming sector through LEAF Open Farm Sunday, we are enabling over a quarter of a million people to experience farming first hand, get their questions answered and build trust and understanding in farming and all it delivers. This collaboration is key." Defra Secretary Michael Gove called Open Farm Sunday a "fantastic initiative".

Farmers wanting to host an event are asked to register at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org)

## Post Brexit to be focus of meeting



Oswestry farmer Malcolm Roberts is urging people to attend the meeting

SHROPSHIRE farmers will attend an NFU meeting to discuss the Government's command paper and help shape the future of farming in the country.

The Government's consultation paper, on a future agricultural policy post Brexit, is arguably the most significant report in decades and will have an impact on the industry's future for generations to come.

The paper will set out the Government's strategy for agricultural policy after the country splits from the EU and what will replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Farmers and growers are urged to attend the county meeting at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on Wednesday next week at 7.30pm to discuss the command paper, its implications for the industry and the union's response.

Oswestry farmer Malcolm Roberts, NFU regional board chairman, said: "The NFU is on the front foot and has already set out its vision for the future policy and its Framework for Success sets out a bold and ambitious policy for farmers to succeed post Brexit."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Innovation prize for company

BRITISH agritech start-up Small Robot Company has won a prestigious innovation award.

The company harnesses the power and precision of robots and Artificial Intelligence to improve the way that food is produced.

The £50,000 funded research award will look to develop 'Harry', the company's precision drilling and planting robot, from concept through to in-field prototype. It received the Horizontal Innovation Award from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the High Value Manufacturing Catapult (HVMC).

The technology is built on 15 years of robotics research by Professor Simon Blackmore, the world's leading expert on precision farming at Harper Adams University, near Newport.

### Temperatures reminder given

FARMERS are being urged to check their farm fridge temperature after new research conducted by MSD Animal Health found none of the fridges observed storing vaccines were able to maintain the correct internal temperature of between 2°C and 8°C.

In addition, a subsequent survey of farmers showed that only around half knew the correct temperature for vaccine storage.

It is feared this showed there is a lack of knowledge surrounding standard procedures.

Paul Williams, MSD animal health UK technical manager for ruminants, said: "Failing to maintain the correct fridge storage temperature compromises vaccine effectiveness and consequently animal health."

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# Campaign calls for sheep worry action

Back UK food, says chief



Minette Batters is the first female president of the NFU in its 110-year history. NOW is the time for British food and farming to be championed by the British people, according to the NFU's newly-elected president Minette Batters.

Ms Batters set out her bold and ambitious vision for British food and farming to an audience of political and industry stakeholders in Westminster. Alongside deputy

president Guy Smith and vice-president Stuart Roberts, Ms Batters called on Government to help put British farming on the global map in what she called "a new dawn for the countryside". Ms Batters said: "I want to be involved in Brexit trade negotiations, and for farming to be the first to take its place in this new buyers' market."

Report by Jonny Drury

**PUTTING** a stop to sheep worrying is the subject of a new campaign.

Sheep worrying is becoming a major problem for farmers with a host of cases reported in Montgomeryshire and Shropshire in recent years.

Now the National Sheep Association (NSA) is asking dog owners, together with the farming community, to unite in spreading positive messages on enjoying the British countryside responsibly.

Katie James, NSA communications support officer, said: "Sheep worrying by dogs is a very serious problem for farmers which isn't going away, and NSA continues to hear of a frustratingly high number of dog attacks on livestock. We do not want to discourage dog owners from enjoying the beautiful landscapes in Britain, only to do so responsibly and consider the impact an attack can have on farmers business and livelihood as well as animal welfare." By spreading graphics, case studies and statistics as part of the campaign, NSA is aiming to unite messages on promoting responsible dog ownership across Facebook and Twitter. Miss James added: "With the long-awaited arrival of spring, farmers can see an increase in walkers on footpaths through and around fields. And at a time when ewes are heavily pregnant or have young lambs at foot, the risk of dogs chasing livestock can also increase the risk of serious problems like ewes aborting or lambs becoming separated from their mothers. With the power of social media, we are hoping this campaign can go some way to raise awareness of the problem and ultimately help to reduce the amount of sheep worrying cases we hear about at the NSA."

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# 14 Students are given classes on fencing skills

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 5, 2018

NORTH Shropshire College sport students were recently treated to a series of fencing masterclasses courtesy of Bridie Lloyd of Phenzyne.

The classes formed part of their studies, and were designed to help develop their practical and individual techniques and skills, as well as helping them to learn the rules and regulations of fencing.

Three sessions were organised in total, and the students were put through their paces learning foil techniques such as blocking and parrying, the different types of fencing from foil to epee and sabre, and the rules and regulations of the sport. To test their knowledge further, a fencing themed quiz was also organised at the end of each session to test the students' aptitude for what they had learnt.

Paul Clark, sport lecturer at the college, said: "The fencing sessions have enhanced our curriculum delivery. Practical individual sports traditionally involved badminton and short tennis for many years. Fencing has given the unit a new lease of life, the students have enjoyed participating in activities that they would normally never do. It has had a positive effect on participation and achievement through fun practical and relevant theory tasks to support assessment criteria. Both staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed it."

## Globe stage for talented young actress

YOUNG Shropshire actor Rachael Thomas has taken to the stage at the world famous Shakespeare's Globe as part of the annual Sam Wanamaker Festival.

The 25-year-old from Kinnerley near Oswestry joined the UK's most promising young actors in a weekend of workshops culminating in a performance. She was selected as one of 38 up-and-coming young actors involved in the event in Stratford-upon-Avon organised by the Globe, which operates one of the largest arts education programmes in the UK.

She joined students from leading drama schools across the country for workshops led by the Globe's resident text, movement and voice practitioners.

The weekend ended in a public performance of scenes by Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

Previous festival performers who went on to receive worldwide recognition include Andrew Garfield, best known for Hollywood blockbusters such as The Amazing Spiderman, and Michelle Dockery, best-known for her role as Lady Mary in Downton Abbey.

Rachael, who studies at the Manchester School of Theatre, performed as The Duchess in a scene from The Duchess of Malfi by John Webster.

She said: "I cannot express how over the moon I was to be involved.

"The atmosphere was amazing and the experience is something I treasure for the rest of my life."

## Drive to free up beds for patients

HOSPITAL staff in Shropshire have been testing new ideas and working differently over the last few weeks in a bid to tackle problems with discharging patients.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), which runs Telford's Princess Royal Hospital and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, launched its first ever Let's Crack It fortnight which aims to see that patients get discharged as soon as they are medically fit to leave.

SaTH's chief executive Simon Wright said the trust's hospitals are having to cope with an extra 100 plus patients than they have capacity for, with a major problem being the length of time it takes to discharge patients compared with admitting them. He said: "We have to break that cycle and get back to normality. There are a lot of patients that need care in the community and they may be waiting to leave for a number of reasons.

"This is about targeting those patients that don't need to be in hospital.

"The moment they are well enough to leave we need to encourage that process and get them home."

# Number of domestic abuse offences recorded by police in council area rises by 22 per cent

MORE than 2,000 domestic abuse offences were recorded in the area covered by Shropshire Council in the last year.

In the financial year to March 2017, West Mercia Police recorded 2,186 domestic abuse offences in the area, concentrated in Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Market Drayton and Ludlow.

This number is a 22 per cent rise on the previous year, according to a report released to Shropshire Council's performance management scrutiny committee meeting.

Police pursued 1,703 prosecutions for domestic violence, resulting in 1,352 convictions, the equivalent of 79 per cent of all prosecutions for domestic violence made by the police.

In the same financial year, the borough's multi-agency risk assessment conference

### Report by Jordan Reynolds

(MARAC) recorded 319 higher risk cases of domestic abuse.

And West Mercia Women's Aid's independent domestic abuse advisers provided help for 280 people in Shropshire.

### Refuge

The report adds that Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS) is commissioned by Shropshire Council to provide a refuge and longer-term outreach service to between 80 and 100 people each year.

SDAS runs a 10-bedroom refuge for women only, as well as a two-bedroom property that

can accommodate anyone. A further three-bedroom property will become available this year.

Between April 1 and December 20 last year 42 women and 55 children used the refuges, and 40 per cent came from within Shropshire.

The report says: "Although people from elsewhere used the service, Shropshire was not a popular destination for people fleeing abuse due to its relative geographical isolation and lack of comprehensive services.

As well as refuge space, SDAS organises a range of support services both for people staying in refuges and the wider population.

There has been a steady increase in demand for support services.

Last year West Mercia Women's Aid's IDVA services represented 280 people, having fore-

cast to support 200 to 220 clients. SDAS also reports growing demand, which cannot be met with existing services.

### Scrutiny

The authority's performance management scrutiny committee recommended the joint health overview and scrutiny committee explore opportunities for NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to offer acute support to children who are staying in domestic abuse refuges.

The committee also recommended that the joint health overview and scrutiny committee explore opportunities for working more closely with Telford & Wrekin Council to deliver domestic abuse support services.

### Report by Deborah Hardiman

**COUNCILLORS have backed down over a suggestion they could ban police from accessing the council's CCTV system.**

Welshpool Town Council has heavily invested in its street camera system in recent years.

But members were left angered when it was suggested that the area would be at the bottom of the pile in a new £2 million funding scheme.

Some members had floated the possibility of changing the locks on the CCTV room, which is based in the town hall, in Broad Street, and even charging the force a fee for getting copies of tapes.

But at a full town council meeting last week members voted against any such action being taken, claiming the public would not support them if they withdrew access for the police.

Dyfed-Powys Police Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn had recently announced a £2m pot of funding to switch on disused CCTV cameras across Powys, and it was claimed that Welshpool was told it was at the bottom of the pile.

### Failing

Councillor David Senior said: "I cannot support these recommendations.

"If we do, people in Welshpool will see the town council as failing to cooperate with police and that would be a mistake.

"When the commissioner came we seemed to go on the attack.

"We didn't give credit for progress made. In the past, police officers would leave Welshpool and there would be a gap before they were replaced. The force has stopped doing that now which is a good thing.

"At no point was it mentioned that Welshpool was going to be at the bottom of the pile."

Councillor Stephen Kaye, Mayor of Welshpool Town Council, told the meeting that he felt strongly about the issue.

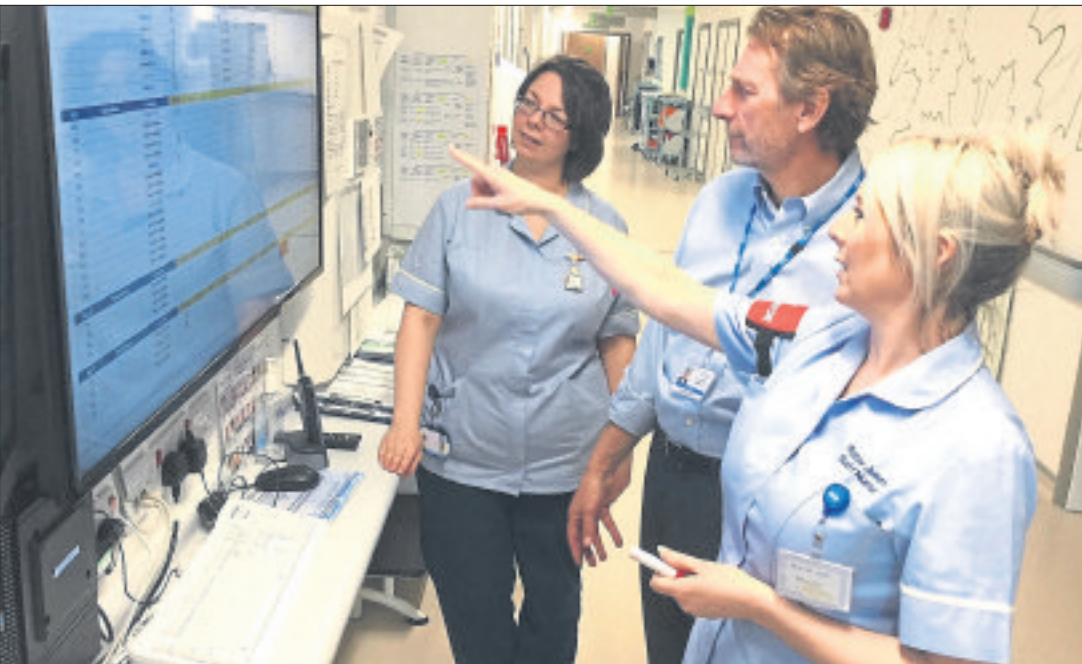
He said: "We are not taking the CCTV off the police. We are not stopping them from using it, but they need to pay. They are using our equipment and we are paying for it. It is double taxing. Our taxpayers have paid for the system.

"We are telling that organisation that it is about time that you start funding us.

"We give money to them all the time and it is about time they give something to us."

Following a town council debate, councillors voted to reject the recommendations by nine votes to six.

## Bosses go back to the floor with hospital staff



Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital trust chairman Frank Collins worked with staff on the Baschurch Unit during the 'back to the floor' day

SENIOR managers at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital went "back to the floor" to check in with front line staff.

Chairman of the hospital's trust Frank Collins spent the morning working as a nurse on the Baschurch Unit, before shadowing a radiographer in the afternoon.

Director of nursing Bev Tabernacle spent her day helping out in the hospital's library, before working in the kitchen to help plate up meals for patients and serving lunch to staff and visitors in the hospital's restaurant Denbigh's.

Other leaders also tried their hands working with teams in theatres, therapies, outpatients, the high dependency unit and pharmacy, as well as offering support to portering staff, and a number of other roles across the hospital.

Trust secretary Shelley Ramtuhul also put in a shift as a housekeeper.

The event, held for a second time, enabled the trust's senior managers to spend time working in a variety of areas, shadowing staff and learning about their work, and how their contribution and area enables the hospital to function on a daily basis. Mr Collins said: "I

was delighted to be part of 'back to the floor' day this time. It was brilliant to spend some time with the team on the Baschurch Unit, as well as in radiology. It's also been good because seeing what staff do first hand helps everyone appreciate what everyone else does."

The managers of the areas that were visited as part of the exercise will receive a one-page letter from senior leaders, feeding back on the highlights of the visit, such as areas of best practice identified or observations of staff going the extra mile, as well as any feedback stating what could be done better.

# RSPB partnership with housing firm is renewed

A UNIQUE partnership between the RSPB and David Wilson Homes, which has a development in Oswestry, has been renewed and extended for another three years.

The partnership aims to deliver more wildlife friendly housing across Shropshire, helping to give nature a home.

David Wilson Homes and the RSPB will work together to boost biodiversity and promote wildlife at particular developments, including Doseley Park in Doseley, Drayton Meadows in Market Drayton, Eastfield in Lawley Vil-

lage, Montgomery Place in Oswestry and The Mounts in Whitchurch.

Through such initiatives as hedgehog highways, bee friendly planting and swift bricks, the aim of the partnership is to help all forms of wildlife and nature on new housing developments.

Over the last 50 years 56 per cent of species have declined while 15 per cent are at risk of disappearing from our shores altogether.

Bosses say with the country's wildlife continuing to struggle the groundbreaking part-

nership between Europe's largest nature conservation charity and the country's largest housebuilder is setting the benchmark for nature friendly homes.

The firm says the first three years of the partnership have been a resounding success with both organisations working together to agree best practice on what are the best plants and shrubs to use in gardens, the best times in the year to survey local species and how to make good use of existing nature features on new developments.

In addition the partnership is helping home owners by offering guidance and advice on how to help nature thrive.

Welcoming the renewal, Mike Clarke, chief executive of the RSPB, said: "Having birds, butterflies, bees, hedgehogs and other visitors in our gardens makes us feel good about where we live as well as improving our own sense of wellbeing. Unfortunately our natural world is in trouble, so it is vital that we look at how construction can be sympathetic to nature and how future communities can welcome wildlife."

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# Call made for honour for veterans

A FORMER councillor has launched a campaign urging the government to honour Second World War veterans who are still alive in 2020 when Britain celebrates 75 years since the end of the conflict.

Alan Crowe, a former Welshpool town councillor who organises the town's annual 1940s weekend, believes veterans should be honoured with a medal or a gift if they are still alive when the 75th anniversary comes around in two years time.

To gather support for his campaign he has launched a petition urging the government to do something. The petition requires 10,000 signatures for the government to respond, and 100,000 to have it debated in the Houses of Parliament. Mr Crowe said: "The reason for my petition is that I believe that the country and the government should honour the servicemen and women left for the effort they made back then, as this will be the last major anniversary that any of them will still be with us. I have always had a fondness for our ex-service personnel, and I have been an active member of the Welshpool branch of the Royal British Legion for a great number of years."

Some of Mr Crowe's family members served in the war, and although reaching the amount of signatures needed is an "uphill task" he believes it can be done if the region pulls together.

The Welshpool 1940s weekends Mr Crowe runs, attract up to 10,000 people to the town each September.

To sign visit [petition.parliament.uk/petitions/209591](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/209591)

## Volunteer-run shops bring in £200k a year

VOLUNTEER-RUN shops at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital make about £200,000 every year, according to new figures.

In turn, the money made at the convenience stores, which are run by the League of Friends, is then used to buy new equipment and spent on improving patient care.

Ray Smith, chairman of the group, said there is potential to make more profit but prices are kept low for customers.

"Our main aim is to give the people in hospital a decent value service," he said.

"We're very conscious of keeping prices down and providing people with cheap tea and coffee in the cafe.

"We could easily make more but we're very happy with what we're currently doing. £200,000 is an impressive figure and one we shouldn't be shy of quoting."

There are four shops around the hospital selling refreshments, confectionary and toiletries.

They are all staffed by a team of volunteers who give up their time to work shifts. Mr Smith said there are about 120 people who regularly volunteer help to make the shops a success.

## History group to meet up again

THE next meeting of Oswestry and Border History and Archaeology Group will be on Friday next week in the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street at 7.30pm.

Roger Cooper, archaeologist and director of Oswestry Castle Research Project, will speak on the Norman castle at Oswestry and its implications.

In his illustrated talk, Roger will look at the continuing research at the castle and the research project's future plans, which will include an investigation of the castle's social-political, military and economic impact in the 12th century.

New members and visitors are very welcome.

Full details of Oswestry and Border History and Archaeology Group's lectures are available at Oswestry Library and on the group's website at [oswestry.histarch.uk](http://oswestry.histarch.uk) or by phoning the secretary on (01691) 661793.

# Welsh and Normans face off in castle battle



Battle lines are drawn up as the two sides prepare to have a fight at the castle

IT'S a grudge match nearly 1,000 years in the making – the Welsh and Normans battling it out once again for Shrewsbury Castle.

Crowds gathered to see re-enactors, normally based at Whittington Castle near Oswestry, recreate the bloody battle of 1069, which saw allied forces made up of the men of Chester, the Welsh, Eadric the Wild and "other untameable Englishmen" set fire to the town and besiege the Norman-held stronghold.

The opposing forces were a little smaller for the weekend's rematch – but the war chants and battle cries echoed just as loudly around the castle's grounds. Families were given the chance to hold reproduction shields while the soldiers themselves set up camp and prepared for their fight.

Welsh soldiers marched through the gates to the castle grounds to demand their town back, leading to a clash of champions.



There was some fearsome weaponry on hand for the re-enactment group to use

The two chosen champions fought in the arena, before they were joined by their allies for the battle.

John Lightfoot of the Mercenaries of Mercia recreation group said: "It's amazing fun. I've been doing it for about 12 years now, it's something different."

"This was a significant battle. Eadric the Wild was running amok in Shropshire and the surrounding counties."

"He was desperately trying to get rid of William the Conqueror, because Shrewsbury was such a strategic point."

"It's great to re-enact in such a great environment."

John, 26, from Shrewsbury, said new members would be more than welcome to join them.

The team are usually based at Whittington Castle near Oswestry, but members come from all over the county.

# Re-enactment remembers the horrors of trench warfare



Ready for the fight – John Sewell, Barry Shakles and Liam Shakles



A re-enactor in costume during the event



The trench system developed at Park Hall Countryside Experience

## Report by Jonny Drury

**SOLDIERS of both world wars were brought back to life for hundreds of visitors at an event near Oswestry.**

More than 50 re-enactors gathered at Park Hall Countryside Experience to take part in the event which tells the stories of normal soldiers from all over the world.

Re-enactment organiser Peter Wood, 22, said they had wanted to draw attention to countries outside of the usual German or English sides.

Other countries represented included France, Italy, Russia, Bosnia and Hungary.

Peter, who is training to become a teacher, said: "It's been packed – there's been a lot of interest from the public."

"We have had people come from as far as Carlisle and Cambridge. I think it's because we've represented all different nations."

"We've had about 50 re-enactors on site, showcasing both the First World War and Second World War. We've had more that weren't booked in just coming to support the event." Peter, from the Axis-Allied Reenactment Group, said it had taken nearly four months to organise the huge event. He said: "We wanted to show people living in the trenches, doing things like cooking. It lets the public see how people lived – that's what brings it home. We started with a site visit last July, and then another in January."

Despite some bad weather on Saturday Peter said the re-enactors had enjoyed their time and that they may try to hold future events. They enjoyed a dry day on Sunday, although the prospect of a washout on Monday meant they packed up and called it a day early.



Ivan Pavlovich Krotov portrays a Russian army soldier



Michael Hayes and David Clarke take part in the trench warfare event



Richard Dellington, Christopher Edwards, Richard Newman and Steven Fairbank

# Talented musicians enjoy success in key examinations

TALENTED musicians at a school near Oswestry continue to achieve at the highest level with many girls gaining distinctions in their recent London College Musical Theatre examinations.

The girls from Moreton Hall School have been congratulated on their success by the school.

Maya Falah, 14, from Bettisfield, and Olivia Murton, 15, from Llanfechain, achieved Grade 5 with Jemima Davenport, 15, from Oswestry, achieving Grade 6.

Georgina Lang, 17, from Knockin, Sor-

## Report by Jonny Drury

cha Farnan, 17, from Nantwich and Kitty Davenport, 18 from Oswestry, all attained Grade 8 with flying colours.

These successes come off the back of the hugely successful 'Last Night of the Proms' Gala Concert which took place at Moreton Hall on March 17.

The evening was not only the chance to listen to Moreton's prize winners from the Oswestry Youth Music Festival but to see and hear the work of the North Shropshire

Schools' Orchestra with pupils from around the area joining Moreton Hall for a musical feast.

In keeping with the 'Last Night of the Proms' theme, the massed choirs and North Shropshire Schools' orchestra closed the evening with a rousing rendition of 'Rule Britannia', with Morgan-Darcy Rees Deacon, the overall winner the Oswestry Music Festival, in full Union Jack costume and fine voice.

Organisers say it was a memorable end to a truly memorable night.



Olivia Murton, Kitty Davenport, Georgina Lang, Jemima Davenport and Maya Falah

# Researcher is invited to Parliament

A RESEARCH associate at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital was invited to visit the Houses of Parliament to present a study.

Dr Charlotte Hulme, who is also a research fellow at Keele University, visited Parliament for the STEM for Britain event.

STEM for Britain aims to encourage, support and promote early-career research scientists and gives Members of Parliament an opportunity to see the latest work and developments in the Research industry.

Approximately 600 researchers submitted an abstract to present at the event but only 45 were chosen.

Charlotte showcased a poster which summarised the aims to improve the success rate of a cell therapy treatment in patients suffering with an articular cartilage defect, something that can impact people in their 20s and 30s - occasionally as a result of a sporting injury.

Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (ACI) is the technique used to help patients. The procedure sees a sample of cartilage removed from the patient's knee from which their own cells are then grown in a laboratory. These cells, known as chondrocytes, are returned into the patient's defect area in a second surgical procedure. Currently, the Gobowen-based hospital is the only site in the UK able to offer patients this treatment. Charlotte's research examined why 20 per cent of patients don't demonstrate an improvement in symptoms after this treatment. She discovered that unresponsive patients had an inflammatory response to the treatment and also that a specific enzyme was present in unsuccessful patients.

# Libraries set to host credit union

A CREDIT union will be offering financial information on savings and loans.

Newtown and Welshpool libraries will host the Cambrian Credit Union to offer a friendly, convenient and easy place to save, with access to fairly priced loans as well. The credit union will be at Welshpool Library from 9.30am until 1pm on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and at Newtown Area Library on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings each week. Powys County Councillor Martin Weale said: "I am very pleased to see libraries linking up with charities such as the Cambrian Credit Union,

whose work does so much to help alleviate poverty and financial pressure for people in our communities. Both services provide useful and sustainable resources at a community level and fit in with our health and well-being plan for the council. I would like to see support for credit unions grow through this partnership and for local people to make good use of both these important services.

"Libraries already save people money through their recycling and shared use of great resources, and the Credit Union enhances this offer to boost the local economy."

# Order made by court

A 28 days domestic violence protection order was made at a weekend special court against a 29-year-old Ruabon man to help a woman.

Darrell Alan Evans, of Hampsons Grove, didn't appear at Llandudno Court to contest the application by North Wales Police. District Judge Gwyn Jones banned Evans from a road in St Martins near Oswestry.

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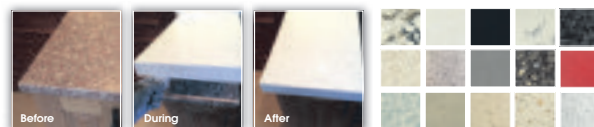
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## Health

### AM commends modernisation programme

A £1.5 million project to modernise a GP practice in a town will be completed this year.

Work on the Corwen Family Practice near Llangollen got underway in February and will see extra GP consultation rooms, improved waiting areas and a new dental suite created.

A range of community services will also be based in the new-look building, including health visitors and district nursing.

The area's Welsh Assembly minister, Ken Skates, who was also involved in the successful campaigns to bring new health centres to Chirk and Llangollen said: "I was delighted to see work on this welcome refurbishment get under way and I'm sure many of my constituents in Corwen and its surrounding communities will be pleased their surgery is seeing this significant investment."

Some services, including physiotherapy and podiatry, are currently being run from temporary accommodation on-site, while dental services will continue to be provided from the current location while refurbishment progresses.

For the duration of the building work, the pharmacist in Corwen town centre will accept repeat prescriptions.

### Conference to take place

A HEALTH conference believed to be the first of its kind in the county for nurses, midwives and healthcare professionals will take place in May.

The quality team at Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is working with Telford and Wrekin CCG and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) to jointly hold the Partners in Care Conference.

The event will be open to all primary care and community care colleagues from across the local health economy.

It is timed to coincide with International Nursing Day and to mark the occasion of the NHS70 celebrations – marking 70 years of the NHS. The event is designed to help healthcare professionals share good practice and showcase new ways of working. The conference will take place on May 15, from 9am to 4pm, at Shropshire Education Conference Centre at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. For more information or to book a place call Evelyne Watson, at Shropshire CCG, on 01743 277546. Alternatively, email [Evelyne.watson@nhs.net](mailto:Evelyne.watson@nhs.net)

### Launch held of new-look body

NEW-LOOK health services for children and young people in Shropshire have been unveiled at a launch event in Shrewsbury.

The service, which is being run by Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and commissioned by Shropshire Council, sees the previous 0-19 children, young people and family services being brought together in one new entity.

It sees the school nursing team, health visitors and Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) services integrated under the new banner of the Shropshire Public Health Nursing Service. The new range of services aims to meet the needs of children and young people in Shropshire with a clear focus on prevention, early identification of needs and early intervention. Jayne Christie, Public Health Nursing Service manager for Shropshire, said: "The advice and support services we provide to children, young people and families will now be integrated, resulting in a more streamlined approach to how we deliver our high quality and safe care."

"By offering care in this way, it also means the most appropriate healthcare professional will be supporting the child or young person and their family with greater flexibility."

The service was officially launched at an event held at Shrewsbury Town Football Club. The event also involved networking opportunities and performances by the band and performing arts group from St Martins School, near Oswestry.

# Decision on maternity review proposal 'will not be made for several months'

Report by Lisa O'Brien

IT could take four to five months for NHS chiefs to decide on whether a public consultation on the future of Shropshire's maternity services can begin, it has been revealed.

NHS England must give the go-ahead for a public consultation to begin.

The consultation will consider proposals to shake-up maternity services and end births at the rural midwife-led units (MLUs) in Oswestry, Ludlow and Bridgnorth.

Health bosses at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), which runs the services, have expressed their concerns about the delay.

A report to the trust board, which meets this week, says: "The delay in the public consulta-

tion has been highlighted as a risk to both the clinical quality review meeting and the MLU review programme board.

"The director of nursing, midwifery and quality and the head of midwifery have written to both clinical commissioning groups and the programme board, requesting an estimation of timescales involved.

"Responses back indicate a timescale dependent on a seven stage NHS England assurance process which may 'last several months (maybe four-five months) before the process is concluded'."

Under the proposals, which have already been signed off by Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin CCGs, women will be able to give birth at the consultant-led unit at Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, at the hospital's neighbouring midwife led unit at PRH, at a free-standing midwife-led unit at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or at home. A series of maternity 'hubs' would also be created to support women before and after birth.

The three rural midwife-led units reopened to births on New Year's Day after a suspension due to staffing issues last year.

Health campaigners have expressed their dismay at the repeated temporary suspensions of inpatient services at the MLUs ever since.

In the meantime, SaTH is planning to seek people's views on the temporary closures and a planned programme of rotating four-week suspensions of inpatient services across the rural MLUs. A report to the board by SaTH's head of midwifery Sarah Jamieson says: "The results of the engagement period will be analysed externally and presented to the trust board in a public board meeting on May 31."

"During this period of engagement, we would like to hear from local people, and particularly women and families using our maternity services to understand how we can best meet their needs until a new long-term sustainable model of care can be fully implemented."

# Eye department looks to greatly increase surgeries

Report by Lisa O'Brien

**THE department for eye treatment services in Shropshire will be looking to more than triple the number of operations it carries out in the future, health bosses have revealed.**

From Sunday the eye department at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) will be taking new glaucoma and general ophthalmology referrals for the first time in more than a year.

It comes after the trust recruited a number of new staff to senior positions, including consultant ophthalmologists, and reduced waiting lists.

SaTH's chief executive Simon Wright said it had gone from being a "challenging service" to one which was close to being fully staffed.

He said future plans also include increasing the number of operations in the department from 30 to 100 a week.

He said: "We would be able to provide them all and not see patients leaving the county."

### Vacancy

"We've gone from having a 50 per cent vacancy in the department to one vacancy."

"We are hoping to fill that in the summer."

He said the changes had also helped to boost staff morale.

A clinician is also being trained in adult squint surgery, which means that service could also reopen to referrals later in the year.

The eye department is now based in a new unit in the Copthorne Building at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

A new paediatric ophthalmology department was also opened in October. Alongside the increased workforce and new facilities at SaTH, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have appointed a new community provider.

Community Health Eye Care Ltd provides consultant-led eye clinics at six locations throughout Shropshire, and Telford & Wrekin.

Julie Davies, director of performance and delivery at Shropshire CCG, said: "This change to service design is a positive improvement to ophthalmology services in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, and alongside SaTH's increased workforce will ensure that patients who need eye care services will not only be seen quicker but will benefit from consultant-led care closer to home."

# Region's health service spent £400k on paracetamol

HEALTH commissioners in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin spent more than £400,000 on prescriptions for paracetamol in the past year, new figures show.

Prescriptions for the common painkiller have cost Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group £288,967 in the last 12 months.

Telford & Wrekin CCG also forked out just more than £144,000 on paracetamol prescriptions between February 2017 and January this year.

Telford & Wrekin CCG said it introduced a

## £1 million MRI scanner is unveiled at ceremony



Lord Lieutenant Sir Algernon Heber-Percy and hospital chief executive Simon Wright, with members of the MRI team

A NEW £1 million MRI scanner has been installed at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

The machine was funded by the League of Friends group which launched a special fundraising drive for the scanner.

It was unveiled at a special ceremony by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Sir Algernon Heber-Percy.

Following the ceremony, members of staff and volunteers from the League of Friends got the chance to see the equipment in the new MRI Suite.

Simon Wright, chief executive of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust,

said the new scanner would bring enormous benefits to patients across the county and mid Wales.

He added: "We are extremely grateful to the League of Friends and all their sponsors and volunteers for providing SaTH with a new, state-of-the-art, MRI Scanner."

### Drive

Mr Wright took part in the fundraising drive by climbing four volcanoes in Sicily in six days last year. This MRI scanner can be used to examine almost every part of the body, including the brain and spinal cord, bones and

joints, heart and blood vessels, and internal organs. It is also one of only a few scanners in the country that can take cardio images. Ray Smith, chairman of The League of Friends, said: "We are thrilled that we have been able to provide the £1m needed to purchase the very high specification MRI scanner."

"The purchase has only been made possible due to the hard work of our volunteers and fundraisers, and the marvellous support received from sponsors and donors across Shropshire and mid Wales."

"Patient investigations will be greatly enhanced from now on."

"Since introducing this policy we have already seen a 17 per cent reduction in the amount of money spent on prescribed paracetamol locally. This money is now able to be reinvested into other priority treatments and services, to ensure the maximum benefit to patients from our budget. We would like to reassure patients that a GP can still prescribe these medications to assist with the treatment of chronic conditions."

NHS England recently held a public consultation on proposals to rein in prescriptions for

some over-the-counter products, such as dandruff shampoo and drops for tired eyes. It has been proposed in a bid to free up millions of pounds to expand other treatments for major conditions.

The consultation ended earlier this month and Martin Lunt, who owns Lunts Pharmacies which has branches in Shrewsbury, Pontesbury and Craven Arms, now hopes it will be brought into effect. Mr Lunt said something has to be done considering the mounting pressure on the NHS.

# Government is 'failing to understand rural needs'

THE Government is failing rural communities due to a lack of knowledge about the problems they face, a new report says.

Lord Cameron of Dillington, chairman of a House of Lords committee on rural affairs, told the Chronicle's sister paper the Shropshire Star that too many in Government still have a "chocolate box" image of the countryside and do not understand the issues of poverty, poor infrastructure and housing.

He has called for the break-up of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Af-

fairs (Defra), created by the Blair government in 2001.

He says responsibility for countryside matters should be transferred to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The peer said matters of agriculture and the natural environment had dominated Defra's work since it was formed and Brexit meant that they were likely to be in even greater focus in future.

He said this meant problems affecting people living in the countryside were often overlooked.

Lord Cameron said independent bodies such as the Commission for Rural Communities, which had provided a voice for the countryside within government, had been abolished.

Funding cuts meant that their replacements had not been effective in providing ministers with an understanding of rural matters. "Defra never really got the fact that 90 per cent of the rural population really has little to do with land and land management," he said.

He said a lack of understanding about rural life meant issues such as poor mobile and

broadband connections, reduced public services and weak transport links were not given enough priority.

Ludlow MP Philip Dunne said he disagreed that restructuring government departments was the answer to the problems faced in the countryside.

"That would be like moving the deckchairs," he said. "The focus of Defra is about much more than agriculture, at the moment it is drawing up a 25-year environmental plan which is much more wide-ranging than that."

## Lots of farming fun springs up



**Zak Curran-Evans, aged five, from Oswestry in the lamb cuddle corner**

THERE was a definite hint of spring in the air at North Shropshire College.

From dozens of lambs in the lambing shed to a pregnant alpaca and even a broody kookaburra sitting on eggs, spring had sprung in all its beauty.

The Spring Lambing Day at the Walford Campus, near Baschurch, brought in hundreds of people.

There was something for everyone at the site whether it was horses to pat, lambs to cuddle or tractors to sit on.

The campus straddles two sides of the Shrewsbury to Baschurch road and on one there was the chance to meet the college's more exotic pets, including a mob of meerkats and birds of prey while on the other it was far more about the farmyard.

And if the lure of the animals was not

enough, children could have their faces painted, take part in a well-wanging competition and enjoy a jump on the bouncy castle.

One of the most popular areas was the stables, where children petted Pixie, Hottie and Jack Jones – none of whom seemed to mind the attention.

Among those soaking up the atmosphere in the lambing barn was Jeremy Tinsley, his wife Helen, son Connor, 12, and 10-year-old daughter Abigail.

Jeremy, a warehouse operative from Morda near Oswestry, said: "We came here last year and had a really good time.

"It is fantastic for the family and there is so much to see and do.

"It is a very good day out and is well worth the entrance fee."

# Almost £20,000 was spent on showcase event

**SHROPSHIRE Council spent almost £20,000 sending council representatives to a property exhibition in Cannes where various investment opportunities, including Oswestry Innovation Park, were showcased.**

The authority confirmed it spent the funds taking delegates to the event, which included flights, hotels and "promotional films and marketing material".

The event on the French Riviera included social receptions – and images have emerged of delegates having lunch on the beach.

But the council has insisted the time spent in France was invaluable in showcasing the region.

The international MIPIM exhibition showcased landmark sites earmarked for future development in Shropshire to potential European investors.

They include Shrewsbury's Flaxmill Maltings, the former Ironbridge Power Station, 200 acres of development-ready land in Telford and Clive Barracks at Tern Hill.

Shropshire Council's head of economic growth Gemma Davies and Councillors Nic Laurens and Steve Charmley attended the event.

Laura Pell, spokeswoman for Shropshire Council, said £19,600 was spent on the trip costs, a contribution to support Midlands UK Pavilion and creating promotional films.

She said: "For the first time, Shropshire attended MIPIM as part of the Midlands UK and Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) presence.

"The event offered the opportunity to take Shropshire to an international audience alongside much bigger partners and on a Midlands platform

## Report by David Banner

that offered a full programme of events, conferences, and announcements and exposure to national and international audiences.

"The ultimate aim was to bring investment into the county, whether that be inward investment from UK based organisations or investment from outside of the UK, and is just one way that the council aims to deliver the outcomes as detailed within the ambitious Shropshire's Economic Growth Strategy."

A promotional film showcasing the development opportunities and the county's outstanding natural environment was shown.

## Historic

Shropshire Council said it has a vision of giving historic buildings and estates a range of modern uses, creating inspiring places to live, work and invest.

Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, the world's first iron-framed building, will be available to the market by 2021, providing four floors and 28,000 sq ft of luxury office space.

It is seen as a key project which Ian Morrison, Historic England's national planning director, launched during the presentation to European investors. The Shropshire site was marketed as part of the Midlands UK delegation to the event in Cannes. Shropshire also highlighted the former Ironbridge Power Station, which is in the process of being demolished, Clive Barracks at Tern Hill and Oswestry's proposed Innovation Park which council bosses hope will bring hundreds of jobs to the town.

# Hard work of volunteers sees the opening of new community pub

VILLAGERS have opened their own community pub, promising a host of activities for all ages.

The pub attached to Criftons Village Hall closed last year.

Now a community trust has been formed to run the licensed premises as part of the hall.

It reopened in time for Easter after weeks of hard work by a group of volunteers who have cleaned the premises from top to bottom, made repairs, decorated and even hung a new dartboard

as part of the final touches. Pints are also being pulled by volunteer stewards.

John Baker, one of those behind the reopening, said the volunteers had been incredible.

"We have worked out that they have already provided between £4,000 to £5,000 of unpaid work," he said.

"It has been really hard work and now we would like the village to rally round and support us."

As well as the bar the premises has a large function room with a stage and a fully equipped kitchen.

Mr Baker said: "We are keen to talk to anyone looking for a venue whether an organisation or individual."

A gig by the Rowan Tree was held on Easter Monday in aid of the Lingen Davies cancer fund and on April 27 there will be a Jazz night in the bar with Trixie Field from 7.30pm.

# Bus services are in line for £25m boost

BUS services across Mid Wales are set to receive a share of £25 million to support vital routes.

Funding under the Bus Services Support Grant is allocated annually to Wales's local authorities by a formula that reflects their overall populations and their rural or urban characteristics. The £25m grant will be shared between the 22 councils and will allow each to subsidise socially-necessary bus and community transport within their areas. The grant will supplement local authorities' own expenditure on bus and community transport services. Welsh transport secretary Ken Skates said: "I am pleased to announce that the Welsh Government has committed £25m to help ensure a sustainable bus service across Wales over the next financial year. Local scheduled bus services are, and will continue to be, the foundation of our public transport system, allowing people across Wales to get to work, hospital appointments, education and leisure activities. They are vital to Welsh life and actually account for around 100m passenger journeys each year.

"This is a reflection of our commitment to supporting our bus industry and to delivering an effective network of buses for communities as part of an integrated, multi-modal system of public transport right across Wales."

# EU transition agreement is welcomed

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, has welcomed news that EU leaders have approved a transition agreement and adopted guidelines for negotiation of future relations with the UK after Britain's exit from the European Union.

The European Union confirmed it had approved the "transition agreement", which will see a 21-month transition period for the UK's exit until the end of 2020.

Mr Davies said: "The announcement that the EU has agreed terms for a transition period with the EU is great news for both parties, and is a key step for Britain's smooth exit from the EU.

"Whilst we may be leaving the European Union, it is crucial that the UK maintains a good relationship with the EU Bloc, the remaining 27 members of which will remain our most important customers and trade partners.

"The UK is leaving the EU, but is not leaving Europe.

"We want a future in which both the UK and the EU are prosperous and successful."

The MP added: "The transition agreement is another milestone to agreeing an implementation period which will be in the best interests of people and businesses within the UK and across the European Union."

# Fashion show to aid good causes

A FASHION show in aid of Wales Air Ambulance will take place at Llansilin's St Silin's Church tomorrow (Friday).

Presented by local retailer, M&Co of Church Street, Oswestry, this season's latest colours and fashions will be paraded along the red carpeted aisle. Models from the community will be showing clothes for all ages from toddlers through to teenagers and grown ups and ladies and gentlemen, and clothes will also be available to purchase. Starting at 7.30pm with entry at £8, and children free the evening will include special refreshments.

The money will go to support the air ambulance and also the upkeep of the church.

# Fire crews attend blaze at property

A FIRE broke out in a building in Oswestry.

Firefighters were sent to the scene at Upper Sweeney Farm just before 5.30pm on Tuesday last week.

Three fire crews tackled the chimney fire, which had smokellogged both the ground and first floor.

# Experts to be employed to help produce key plan

EXPERTS are being employed in a move that could help clear the way for three multi-million pound developments involving thousands of new homes.

The contract to carry out the study will cost Shropshire Council £100,000. Bids for the contract must be submitted by April 13.

Key sites including Ironbridge Power Station, Tern Hill Barracks, and a plan for a series of interlinked garden villages of up to 10,000 homes at Tong, will all be assessed.

The findings of the study will play a significant part in whether the areas are included in Shropshire's local plan. The 'landscape and visual impact study' will look at how the coun-

tryside would be affected by the developments – and will suggest ideas that could make large-scale development acceptable.

The review will also be looking at another 57 sites across the county, including nearly all major towns and villages.

Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council's planning policy and strategy manager, said the review would look at how the land around development sites would be affected by the projects.

He said: "The Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review (LPR).

"It will assess the landscape and visual sensitivity of land around 57 settlements and up to five strategic sites within Shropshire to three forms of development – housing, employ-

ment, and mixed use – and identify effective mitigation measures as appropriate.

"The conclusions of the study will help inform the selection of suitable sites for allocation in the LPR. The study will also provide a sound basis for decision-making in the determination of planning applications."

Plans to build 10,000 homes in Tong were revealed by the Shropshire Star last month.

The proposal is being put forward by Bradford Estates on land it owns around the village of Tong and close to the M54 corridor. The estates cover 12,000 acres in Shropshire and Staffordshire and the plan is looking at area covering about 1,600 acres.

# Inquiry will be held to look at state of routes

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 5, 2018

A NEW inquiry is set to begin into the state of roads in Wales.

The National Assembly's economy, infrastructure and skills committee will look at the current condition of Welsh roads and whether the funding and maintenance models in place are providing value for money.

It comes after it was revealed it would take £40 million to restore Powys roads back to the state they were in just eight years ago. The committee will also look at the viability and value for money of major construction projects such as the M4 relief road around Newport, the A465 dualling programme between Gilwern and Brynmawr, the Caernarfon to Bontnewydd bypass, and the Newtown bypass.

Montgomeryshire AM Russell George, chair of the committee, said: "Potholes and poorly maintained roads are a frustration for all of us.

"As well as making your journey uncomfortable they can seriously damage the Welsh economy and society as a whole.

"Think of the millions of journeys made every year for business, for leisure, for health needs, school runs and so on."

A public consultation will be open until April 27, and anyone wishing to contribute should first view the committee's web pages for more information.

## Grant is given from power firm to Eisteddfod

LLANGOLLEN International Musical Eisteddfod will receive part of a £1 million funding pot.

A grant from the ScottishPower Foundation will go to the festival's Inclusion Project, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The project helps promote unity and diversity throughout North Wales, Shropshire and Cheshire. A mixture of groups from the local communities will get together and perform on the main stage at the festival in July.

The £1 million fund will back charity initiatives as diverse as wildlife conservation and science-themed education to mental health awareness and theatrical productions.

The fund was announced by trustee and executive officer of the ScottishPower Foundation, Ann McKechnie, at the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow.

Music director of the Llangollen Eisteddfod, Vicky Yannoula said: "Promoting opportunities for all and reducing inequality of opportunities is core to the ethos of the International Eisteddfod.

"Thanks to the ScottishPower Foundation's continued support and funding the Inclusion Project has been able to continue its good work and enable people from all walks of life to perform on the Eisteddfod stage." The ScottishPower Foundation was established in 2013 with the aim of making a significant and lasting contribution to society.

## New bus link to airport on way

HOLIDAYMAKERS will be able to set off on their breaks the easy way thanks to a coach company.

The firm easyBus is launching a new bus service from Shrewsbury to Oswestry, Wrexham, and Chester to Liverpool Airport, bosses have announced.

From May 14, there will be 16 departures each day.

Seats on the new service will cost from £4.99 one-way.

This new route is an addition to the company's existing service to Manchester Airport, which has been operating for nearly 18 months.

Andrew Martin, easyBus owner, said: "Taking your car to the airport is becoming more expensive, especially with the new £4 drop-off charge at Manchester Airport from June, and the Mersey Gateway toll and existing drop-off charge at Liverpool Airport.

"So we are delighted to launch our new easyBus service to Liverpool Airport from Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Wrexham, and Chester to help keep your holiday costs down."

# Extra £2.2 million given by government to help repair region's pothole-hit roads

## Report by Jonny Drury

the additional £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas.

About seven million potholes will be filled due to this money, announced in the 2016 Budget.

The extra money was welcomed by the councils.

Both have dedicated teams working to fill holes that are creating danger on main roads in the county.

Mr Grayling said: "We have seen an unusually prolonged spell of freezing weather which has caused damage to our local roads.

"We are giving councils even more funding to help repair their roads all road users can

enjoy their journeys without having to dodge potholes."

Telford & Wrekin Council has approved a plan to prioritise main roads to ensure busy routes are safe – but admits that means minor roads will have to wait for repairs.

It said it had been alerted to 118 potholes between March 3 and 9 alone in the Telford area. In January alone Shropshire Council received 1,200 reports of damage.

Each day the council's highways teams are out repairing an average of 260 potholes.

The Government is also investing more than £900,000 in innovation using connected vehicles to help councils more efficiently manage and plan maintenance works.

The aim of these trials is to provide councils

with data to enable them to repair potholes before they occur as well as maintain their other assets more effectively as part of their asset management plans.

This will help prevent further potholes and other road defects occurring over time.

The Asphalt Industry Alliance's annual report identified more than 24,000 miles of local roads across the country as needing essential maintenance within the next year – almost the whole way around the world.

English and Welsh local authorities are reporting a shortfall in funding totalling nearly £556 million a year – equivalent to £3.3 million per authority. It said local authorities needed more than £9.3 billion to bring the network up to scratch.

# Company's sculpture will show the public's love for NHS

## Report by Sue Austin

A SCULPTURE made from obsolete hospital equipment to celebrate 70 years of the National Health Service will take the shape of a heart to reflect the nation's love of the NHS.

The sculpture being created by The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry, will be unveiled at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust's charity fun day on July 7.

Old pieces of equipment that can no longer be used or repaired including blood pressure monitors, parts of hospital beds, surgical hands, microscopes, a former anaesthetic machine, a broken dialysis machine and wheelchairs will be used for the sculpture. The public was asked for suggestions for the sculpture and a design submitted by 34-year-old Oliver Vaughan-Jones, who was diagnosed with a life-altering neurological condition 10 years ago, stood out above all others. Oliver, from Montgomery, is a former product design engineering student at Brunel University in London.

## Illness

In 2008 he was diagnosed with ME – Myalgic encephalomyelitis – an illness characterised by a range of neurological symptoms and signs, muscle pain with intense physical or mental exhaustion, relapses and specific cognitive disabilities. Mr Knowles said: "It was incredibly inspiring to read all the different suggestions but we all felt the hairs on the back of our necks stand to attention as we read through Oliver's blueprints.

"He is obviously an extremely talented young man and the determination he has shown to submit a full portfolio of fabulous drawing only goes to emphasise how important projects like this are to people who really care about our NHS." Oliver said: "I am hugely honoured to have been asked to liaise with the artist, Luke Kite. My illness means I can be bed-bound for weeks at a time, but I am constantly striving to get better and my passion for art and product design often helps me through the darkest days.

"Hospitals are not without their faults but the NHS is a world leading organisation and I look forward to being able to give something back to the system."

Simon Wright, chief executive of SaTH, said: "I really like the idea of a heart design and look forward to seeing the final creation when it is unveiled at the Fun Day."

## 2,000 trees are planted by family company



Planting the Tudor Griffiths trees are, from left, Maccree Evans, Garry Lloyd, Oliver Griffiths, Kevin Jones and Harry Griffiths

A COMPANY is certainly keeping it in the family when it comes to protecting the environment around the Oswestry area for future generations.

Tudor Griffiths Group is based in Ellesmere and the company has committed to a programme of sustainable forestry management on land owned by the Griffiths family.

Managing director Tudor Griffiths said: "The first step in our programme was to plant 2,000 Douglas fir trees in three acres on the Aston estate, just outside Oswestry, and at another site in English Frankton.

"And to ensure the land is managed successfully for generations to come, we enlisted the help of my two sons Oliver and Harry, who will play a key role in the sustainable approach over the coming years."

Tudor Griffiths Group is an independent businesses supplying construction materials and building supplies, ready-mixed concrete, skip hire, waste management and recycling.

"My family have owned and managed the company for more than 140 years, and we now employ more than 250 people, so our commitment to the local area is clear for all to see,"

said Mr Griffiths. "By implementing a structured and sustainable forestry management plan, we hope to balance our environmental footprint still further, and cultivate the trees to incorporate them in our TG Enviro processes at our Wood Lane site in Ellesmere." TG Enviro offers a fully-integrated waste management service to all commercial, construction, agricultural and retail businesses, and domestic customers. Mr Griffiths added: "We have a comprehensive environmental policy in place, and our renewable energy strategies are also delivering real results."

# Public to be asked for views on pensioner income cut

A MOVE to cut the minimum income of pensioners receiving adult social care in Shropshire will go out to public consultation.

At a meeting of Shropshire Council's cabinet, members agreed to press ahead with a recommendation from a report proposing the minimum income guarantee (MIG) for a single person be cut by £4.74.

It said this would bring the minimum amount down to £189, while older couples would lose out on £3.35 each a week, taking them down to £144.30.

The move, which is option two in the consultation, would raise £467,000 a year for the council.

Option one would see the MIG stay the same, but "would effectively cancel out" the pension increase by upping the required care contribution.

This would raise £250,000 a year. The report said option two would bring the authority in line with the legal minimum.

Councillor Lee Chapman, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We face some diffi-

cult decisions as a local authority, but I would remind members and colleagues that adult social care is means tested.

"As such, those most vulnerable and particularly those with low assets do not have to make a contribution towards their care."

Councillor Alan Mosley, Labour group leader, questioned why there was no option in the consultation to make no changes at all.

Speaking after the meeting, he said: "Shropshire Council are guilty of daylight robbery. Of the two options, one will result in many elderly

people gaining virtually nothing from their annual pension rise and the other would actually result in pensioners being almost £5 a week worse off.

"This is a diabolical way of treating some of our vulnerable people who may be struggling to make ends meet and who are less able to have their voices heard."

The council had previously set its MIG above the statutory minimum.

A final decision on the changes will be made by cabinet after the public consultation.



Motorists will need to watch out for changes to driving rules to avoid harsher penalties

# Are you up to speed on new driving laws?

**F**rom hefty fines for using the hard shoulder incorrectly to more stringent MoT tests, a raft of new driving laws will be coming into force this year, writes Heather Large.

Motorists will need stay up date on changes to some of the legislation to avoid harsher penalties.

While updates to the driving test will affect thousands of learners when they start heading out on the road.

Parents will also need to be aware of new rules surrounding children's car seat safety to make sure they are not caught out.

Here are six big changes being introduced in 2018:

## 1. Penalties for misusing the hard shoulder

They are already used to alert police if a car without MoT, tax or insurance is used on the public road but now ANPR-based (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras will be introduced on major motorways to monitor misuse of the hard shoulder.

If a driver uses the hard shoulder on a managed motorway when it isn't open, or drives in a lane with a red 'X' above it, the cameras will automatically trigger a penalty, which includes a £100 fine and three points on your driving licence. Drivers are advised to keep a close eye on the gantry signs above to lanes to ensure they are not using the hard shoulder incorrectly and to avoid a bill.

## 2. Child car seat safety

Under the changes to the laws, new models of backless booster seats will only be suitable for children taller than 125cm or weighing more than 22kg, with high back seats featuring guides to lower the level of the seatbelt in line with the passenger's shoulders. In addition, all children below 15 months old must now travel in a backwards-facing car seat.

All children must use a child car seat un-

til they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first. Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall must wear a seatbelt.

Parents should choose a child car seat based on their child's height or weight.

## 3. Changes to the driving test

First introduced in December, learners taking their test this year will experience a new style of exam.

Now, rather than driving independently for 10 minutes in the test, drivers have to drive for 20 minutes – but, unlike before, they are also tested on their ability to use a sat-nav. This is to prove that they can follow the directions safely.

The new-style tests also include a section where the driver is asked to demonstrate a function of the car, such as how the windscreen wipers work, or how to demist the windscreen.

While two key manoeuvres have also axed, with drivers now only tested on three.

These are a parallel park on the side of the road, parking in a bay and a pulling up on the right hand side of the road manoeuvre.

## 4. Learner drivers to be allowed on motorways

As long as they are accompanied by a qualified driving instructor, learner drivers can have lessons on the motorway this year.

Although an exact start date for this change hasn't been confirmed, the move follows government research found that very few drivers were taking motorway lessons after passing their test.

There were concerns that this meant that for many newly qualified drivers, they were unaccompanied when driving on the motorway for the first time.

## 5. Tax hike for diesel drivers

Newly registered diesel cars will be hit with a tax hike of up to £500 from April.

The changes, announced in the November 2017 Budget, apply to new cars bought after April that do not meet the latest emission standards. For these cars, the Vehicle Exercise Duty

will go up one band, adding between £20 to £500 to year one rates depending on how 'dirty' the car is.

## 6. New MoT legislation

From May 20, tough new rules for diesel cars and new defect categories will come into force during MoT tests. The current system of advisories will be replaced with minor, major and dangerous faults.

Minor faults will work the same as the current advisory system and won't constitute a fail.

But a car with dangerous faults cannot be driven away from the test until the repairs have been carried out.

From this date, a check of diesel filters will also form part of the test. If you've had your filter removed or tampered with, then you will fail.

Reversing lights will be tested for the first time, and your car will also fail if the brake fluid is visually deteriorated.

Classic cars over 40 years old will now be exempt from testing, too.



Tough new rules and defect categories in MoT tests

# Motorists still being caught using phones



Police officers on the A49 in Shropshire as part of a campaign against drivers using phones

**THE** number of motorists caught using mobile phones in the region since stronger penalties were introduced 12 months ago has fallen by nearly half, new figures have revealed.

But more than 1,400 drivers were still caught flouting the law and causing danger on the roads.

West Mercia Police said this was still a significant number considering it has carried out well publicised campaigns and operations on the issue.

From March 1, 2016, to February 28, 2017, 2,620 people were caught using their mobile phone while driving.

That number has dropped to 1,425 between March 1, 2017, and February 28 this year.

Superintendent Paul Moxley said officers



Motorists still use phones while they drive

will do all they can to take drivers off the roads if they break the law.

He said: "Twelve months on, with increased penalties, national campaigns and public awareness we are starting to see a reduction in the number of motorists caught using their mobile phones at the wheel.

"But clearly there are still too many motorists on Shropshire roads who are ignoring the law and blatantly endangering other road users.

"This behaviour is unacceptable and our officers will continue to ensure that we do all we can to enforce this important legislation and take such drivers off our roads.

"Improving the safety of our roads is a year-round commitment for our officers.

"The hope is this deters such reckless driving and means, in the future people will put their phones in their glove box or bag – and never drive distracted."

It is now over a year since the new legislation was introduced, increasing both the fine and the number of penalty licence points for those caught using a mobile

## Report by Dominic Robertson

phone while behind the wheel. Motorists caught using a hand-held mobile phone while driving now face a £200 fine and six points on their licence.

Drivers caught twice face a lengthy ban – which could also then lead to a £1,000 fine.

New drivers – those who have passed their driving test within the past two years – face having their licence revoked if caught just once.

Recently a survey of readers of our sister paper the Shropshire Star revealed that more than a quarter of drivers in the county are still using their phone while behind the wheel.

Of more than 1,000 people taking part in the survey, 27 per cent of people confessed to checking their mobile phone while driving at some point over the past 12 months.

The figure is a nine per cent drop on 2016, when the Shropshire Star first ran the survey.

A total of 1,160 readers responded to the survey.

It also found that 13 per cent of people had also sent or read a text message while at the wheel, and 12 per cent had used their phone to make or receive a call.

Speaking during a week of action led by the National Police Chief's Council in January, West Mercia Police chief constable Anthony Bangham said there was still more work to be done.

He said: "Driving while distracted by a mobile phone is completely unacceptable and puts everyone on the roads at risk of serious harm.

"We are making use of the tougher penalties to clamp down on this dangerous behaviour – but we have to be clear that when you get behind the wheel it is your responsibility to stay focused and alert.

"It's concerning that we still have drivers out there who are willing to risk driving whilst distracted and it is a year round commitment for us to challenge this behaviour across West Mercia."

Research by the BMJ concluded that using a mobile phone even 10 minutes before a crash increased the likelihood of an accident four fold. The report also made the assertion that using hands-free phone systems, which are legal, also increased the risk.

Organisations including Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Safer Roads Partnership also put their weight behind the campaign.

Station manager James Bainbridge, from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "It takes no more than a moment of distraction for an accident to occur."

## 22 Concern is aired over cuts to youth services

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 5, 2018

A LOCAL authority's youth service budget has been cut in half over the past four years.

The Welsh Lib Dem group on Powys County Council described the 50 per cent cut in the budget as disastrous for youngsters around the county.

Between 2015/16 and 2018/19, the budget has reduced from £1.25 million to £635,000, with the latest cuts amounting to around £200,000.

Under the latest cut backs to save money, youth centres around the county will be closed.

Lib Dem leader on the council, Councillor James Gibson-Watt said the people in the most deprived communities are being hit again. He said: "Past cuts have meant large areas of the county receive no direct youth service provision at all.

"This further cut will make matters worse, closing facilities that serve some of Powys's most deprived communities and inhibiting the ability of youth service staff to support the young people and their families in them.

"The youth service provides vital early-intervention services, supporting children and young people in difficulty and helping to prevent them requiring other, more intensive social and health care services."

## MP backing expansion plan for Heathrow

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, has backed the Transport Select Committee's support for a third runway to be built at Heathrow Airport, and believes that the expansion will have major benefits for the Welsh economy.

A report released by the committee has stated that the UK Government should press ahead with its Airports National Policy Statement, which includes plans to expand Heathrow Airport by building a third runway. Mr Davies has expressed his support for the committee's report and has stated that Heathrow's expansion will be key to strengthening Wales' economy.

Mr Davies said: "The addition of a third runway to Heathrow will be the best solution for Wales to retain and grow global connectivity for the UK in future years. The expansion will inevitably mean disruption but will also mean thousands of new jobs and will strengthen transport links to Wales.

"Wales must focus its attention on improving M4 and rail links to Heathrow, which will serve to strengthen access from Wales to London and the world. A new Western Rail link will reduce journey times make it easier than ever to connect Welsh exports with world markets, whilst bringing global investment and tourism to Wales.

"The expansion would also deliver significant benefits to Welsh businesses, with the airport pledging to use 370,000 tonnes of British steel in its expansion."

## Car meet will put focus on illness

A CHARITY car meet will be held to raise awareness of Crohn's and colitis.

The Shropshire Performance Owners will hold the event at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry on April 22 from midday.

Owners of the modified cars will gather to exchange information and enjoy the company of like-minded enthusiasts. They will also have collection buckets for Crohn's and Colitis UK.

Adam Houlding said the cars could be any make or age with their owners modifying them.

"They are cars that stand out in a crowd," he said.

"We don't have boy racers in the club, we like to bring people together to understand the care that our members take over their cars. We have been helped to organise the meet by local cleaning companies who have sponsored products.

"There is no stereotype for someone who is a performance owner. We all share the same passion for our cars."

Mr Houlding said he himself had Crohn's.

# Thousands of county wildlife enthusiasts take part in nationwide bird programme

### Report by Jonny Drury

THE latest results from the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch have revealed a golden year for the goldfinch along with a number of other small birds after a surge in sightings in gardens across the country.

The top three birds spotted in Shropshire were the house sparrow, blue tit and blackbird.

Now in its 39th year, the Birdwatch is a chance for people of all ages to count the number of birds that visit their garden helping the RSPB build up a picture of how they are doing.

This year, more than 450,000 people took part across the country – including 4,366 from Shropshire – counting an impressive 6.7 million birds.

The event held over the last weekend in January revealed an increase in sightings of

smaller birds, such as goldfinch, long-tailed tit and coal tit that can usually be seen visiting gardens and outside spaces in mixed flocks.

Recorded sightings of the brightly coloured, sociable finch rose by 11 per cent on 2017 figures and its bright red face was seen in more than two-thirds of gardens.

Other small birds that are thought to have benefited from the mild January weather include long-tailed tit (+16 per cent), coal tit (+15 per cent), and blue tit (+5 per cent).

It also proved to be a good year for the greenfinch after a five per cent rise in sightings, a welcome sign for a species that has undergone

a 60 per cent decline in sightings since the first survey in 1979.

The influx of these species to our gardens is thought to be linked to the favourable conditions during their successful breeding season in 2017. This, combined with the kind autumn and winter weather in the run-up to the Birdwatch, will have contributed to the rise in sightings. Daniel Hayhow, RSPB conservation scientist, said: "Our garden birds are a part of our everyday life, whether it's the robin perched on the garden fence or the flock of starlings you see on your way to work.

"To have hundreds of thousands of people spend an hour watching the wildlife in their garden isn't only great to see, but it also helps us build up a picture of how our garden birds

are doing, which is really helpful. Last summer was a really good year for many breeding birds with warm weather creating great conditions for many smaller birds to raise their young to adulthood. The rise in sightings of goldfinch, long-tailed tit and coal tit, along with chaffinches and greenfinches, goes to show that in the absence of cold weather they can survive the winter months in good numbers. Looking at the results it is likely that across the UK this is what people are seeing in their garden." It is likely that the warmer temperatures during the autumn and winter will have made it easier for these birds to find food, like insects, in our gardens, which in previous colder winters would have been harder to come by because of frosts and snow.

# Firefighter operation 'is among the best in the UK'

### Report by Jonny Drury

SHROPSHIRE'S on-call firefighter operation has been recognised as one of the best in the UK at a national conference.

Fire officer group manager Jon Temple and watch manager Tony Talbot showcased how Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service manages the retained duty system at the National Fire Chiefs Council conference in Hinckley.

The system employs 343 on-call firefighters.

The firefighters operate out of 22 of the county's fire stations, including Oswestry, Whitchurch, Prees, Market Drayton and Hodnet.

They add to Shropshire's firefighting force of more than 500, including whole time firefighters employed full-time at fire stations in Telford, Wellington and Shrewsbury where populations are higher.

### Successful

After speaking to more than 200 delegates from 44 fire and rescue services Mr Temple, who is based at Shrewsbury, said: "It was a very successful conference with a huge amount of passion, hard work and best practice sharing.

"I have also been asked by a few neighbouring brigades to deliver our presentation to the strategic management teams as they like the way we manage and have invested in our on-call firefighters.

"We are one of the forerunners in the UK for having an on-call firefighter system which gives Shropshire a phenomenal 98 per cent fire cover compared to much lower figures in other brigades. We know the communities are changing and we must ensure we change with them, regularly reviewing how we recruit and how we can support our on-call firefighters who give up a huge amount of their time to protect their local communities."

The on-call fire fighters make sacrifices by turning out in the middle of the night to answer 999 calls at a moment's notice, despite having regular day jobs. Mr Temple said despite the success of the system, it has been tougher to recruit due to "shrinking villages", high street shop closures and population movements. In Shropshire, they have introduced a team of experienced full-time firefighters working as retained support officers who make up the numbers where firefighter turnout is low. They also carry out a number of additional duties to relieve the pressure on junior retained officers.

## Tasty way to raise funds for children's hospice



Getting creative with cakes is 13-year-old Clara Bonasera with help from carer Nicola Morris, left, and playleader Becky Winter

LET them eat cake – cake lovers across Shropshire will be baking buns, icing sponges and cutting out cookies as part of the Hope House Children's Hospice Eat Cake Week from April 16 to April 20.

Almost 100 cake shops, cafes and restaurants, schools, clubs, businesses and individuals have already signed up and the charity is calling on more people to join in.

Last year's Eat Cake week raised almost £10,000 which enabled Hope House, based at Morda near Oswestry, and its sister hospice Ty Gobaith in Wales to provide vital respite

and end of life care to terminally ill children from across Shropshire, Cheshire, North and Mid Wales.

The money also went to supporting bereaved families.

Hope House area fundraiser Lynsey Kilvert said: "If hundreds of schools, clubs, businesses and cafes get involved in the 2018 Eat Cake we could smash our record of last year which would be incredible.

"No charge is ever made to families for the help provided by Hope House which means that the charity needs to raise at least £6.3

million every year to make sure it can fund its crucial services."

Lynsey said those already signed up to take part in Eat Cake Week including Bicton Heath Primary School near Shrewsbury and Kidzone Nursery in Oswestry, Select-a-Skip and Jacobs in Shrewsbury, FBC Manby Bowdler, Charlton and Jenrick, and Schneider Electric in Telford, and Specsavers and Arla in Oswestry who are planning bake sales.

At Practice Plan in Oswestry staff are also holding their own Bake Off with Lynsey having the tasty task of judging the cakes.

# Delight as water vole makes a comeback in Wales

THE water vole, immortalised by "Ratty" in "Wind of the Willows", is making a comeback in Wales, after becoming the most endangered mammal species in the UK.

The water vole was once a common sight on Welsh waterways but since the 1970s, numbers have declined by more than 90 per cent.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) started a captive breeding programme 10 years ago and since then almost a thousand water voles have been reared and released into the wild, boosting the survival prospect of this iconic species.

NRW, working with local partners has established thriving breeding colonies in four locations across south, mid and west Wales.

Richard Davies, Natural Resources Wales, said: "Wildlife is an important part of our environment, heritage and culture – but water voles need a helping hand because their numbers have declined significantly.

"Male and female voles are paired up in March and will typically produce six litters by late September, comprising four to six babies, on average.

"The offspring are released during the summer, into selected controlled sites with good connectivity, so they can colonise the wider landscape."

Changes in land use practices in the UK and riverbank management techniques resulted in habitat loss, contributing to the decline of the water vole. However, it was the introduction of the North American mink for fur farming that had a catastrophic effect on their numbers.

Mink are ferocious predators and will carry on killing until an entire colony of water voles

is annihilated. They also kill grass snakes, frogs, toads, wildfowl, birds and even swans. Richard added: "This breeding programme offers hope that water vole populations can be re-established in many parts of Wales, helping to form more resilient ecosystems.

"Controlling mink is key to their long-term survival, as the two species rarely co-exist in any one location. As a result, it's important to have the right measures to control mink at every site where we have established breeding colonies."

### Detached home is in sought-after area of village

A spacious three-bedroomed detached bungalow in a sought-after area of the popular village of St Martins near Oswestry, Burnet Cottage is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £250,000.

The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a lounge, a kitchen/dining room, a utility room, a master bedroom with an en-suite, further two bedrooms and a bathroom. There is also an integral garage, a driveway and private gardens. The home also has gas central heating and double glazing throughout. All blinds and light fittings are included as well.

The property itself is located in a quiet residential area yet within walking distance of the centre of the village of St Martins. The village itself has an excellent range of shops and amenities including a large superstore, an excellent primary/secondary school, a post office, public houses and a number of local shops. The area is surrounded by stunning countryside with Ellesmere's renowned meres and the Shropshire Union Canal being close by. In more detail the entrance hall has a cloaks cupboard and airing cupboard with slatted shelving.

The lounge has a feature fireplace with a coal-effect electric fire. The kitchen/dining room has matching eye level cupboards with work tops over and tiled surround, an inset stainless steel sink and drainer, a fitted fan assisted oven and separate grill, a four-ring gas hob with an extractor hood above, space and plumbing for a dishwasher and a partly glazed door to the utility room. This has fitted units with a worktop over and tiled surround, space and plumbing for a washing machine and a tumble dryer, plus a door to the rear garden and a door to the garage.

Bedroom one has a door to its en-suite shower room and there are two further bedrooms and a bathroom.

To the rear of the property is an enclosed garden which is mainly laid to lawn with mature shrub borders and a hedge surround, a summer house and shed. To the front is a gravelled parking area and a wooden gate leading down the side of the property.

### KEY FEATURES

Spacious detached bungalow

Three bedrooms

Sought-after area

Popular village

Bathroom & en-suite

ST MARTINS

£250,000



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Bowen Son & Watson

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# 17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE  
£725,000

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

The main cottage comprises a porch, a large sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, woodburner and French doors. Adjacent is the library with glazing and views to two aspects and the study – a cosy hideaway. The morning room is the central point of the ground floor from which the stairs ascend to three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Beyond the morning room, the dining room is partially open plan to the kitchen, achieving a fabulous social space



with sleek contemporary fixtures in the kitchen. A second study, cloakroom/WC and utility complete the ground floor accommodation.

Duncan Scobie of Balfours, said: "Evelyn and Mike Gregory have nurtured Little Hope to create a fresh and spacious home, together with a highly successful bed and breakfast business. The latter is run as Long Mountain Bed and Breakfast, which has received many awards and certificates of excellence, from Visit Wales and Trip Adviser. The guest accommodation reflects this, it provides three spacious double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and the other two with en-suite shower rooms. A large guest dining/lounge spanning nearly six metres square and an independent guest kitchen allow the guest accommodation to be run totally separately; or for an extended family to enjoy."

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



## Recently modernised home within walking distance of town

OSWESTRY  
£325,000 >>>

A recently modernised three-bedroomed detached home within walking distance of Oswestry has a lovely outlook across Oswestry Cricket Ground.

Having well-proportioned accommodation, the property on Morda Road is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000. With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, a cloakroom/WC, a lounge, kitchen, breakfast area, a dining room and a sun room. There are three good-sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside the garden has an enclosed lawn area with a patio. There is a gravelled driveway to the front and a rear driveway leading to the double garage with electric doors.

The town centre is a short walk away and has a host of shops, restaurants and other amenities.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



## Detached house with valley views comes with a large decked area

GARTH  
£374,950 <<<

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear.

Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators. An open plan approach leads through to the dining/kitchen.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.

Spacious three  
bedroomed  
detached home is  
set on a large plot

**KNOCKIN**  
**£320,000** >>>

In a sought after location found down a private driveway, Dunvegan at Knockin is a spacious three bedroomed detached bungalow set on a large plot.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £320,000 with no chain.

The accommodation briefly comprises a large hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three good sized bedrooms and bathroom.

Outside the property benefits from a large driveway with parking for six vehicles, a double garage and attractive rear and side gardens with mature shrubs.

The property is warmed by oil fired central heating and benefits from double glazing throughout. Located in the village of Knockin, this is just eight miles from Oswestry and 13 miles from Shrewsbury.

For more details contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Large Victorian  
traditional home  
has five bedrooms

**OSWESTRY**  
**£220,000**

A large Victorian traditional terraced property with five bedrooms and three floors, 14 Queens Road, Oswestry is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £220,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch and entrance hall, a separate lounge and dining room, cellars and rear garden, a kitchen that requires re-fitting and a bathroom and a shower room. Features include original mosaic tiles and skirting boards in the porch and entrance hall and two of the five bedrooms have cast iron fireplaces. In more detail the recessed porch still has its original mosaic floor tiles. The through entrance hall has original skirting boards, architraves and doors and a staircase off to the first floor. A traditional fireplace is a feature in the lounge, and there is a bay window. The dining room has a deep inset fireplace in exposed brick with a cast iron wood burning stove and built-in pine alcove cupboards. The kitchen is only partially fitted and requires repair or replacement. There is a wall mounted gas boiler, exit door and a



window. There is a good dry cellar with steps down and a concrete floor. Bedroom one has a period cast iron fire surround and a window to the front. Bedroom two has a period cast iron fire surround and a window to the rear. Bedroom three is positioned to the front. The bathroom has a suite comprising of a bath with an electric shower over, a wash hand basin, WC, an airing cupboard and a window to the rear. On this floor is a shower room with a tiled shower cubicle with a glass screen and an electric shower, hand basin, WC and a window to the side. The second floor landing has a galleried balustrade and access to eaves storage space. Here bedroom four has a window to the rear and bedroom five overlooks the frontage of the property.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details.



Period property  
in town retains  
a wealth of  
original features

**OSWESTRY**  
**£174,950** <<<

In an attractive established residential area, Y Bwthyn on Weston Avenue in Oswestry is a period semi-detached house retaining a wealth of original features.

Within walking distance of the town centre, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £174,950 with no chain. It is also close to schools and colleges.

With gas central heating it has an entrance hall, a living room, dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, cloakroom/WC, a front garden and a large rear garden with a patio area and two store sheds.

Outside, the front entrance is approached via a gated pathway and bordered by a low hedge. The front garden is lawned and there is a large lawned garden to the rear with side access, two store sheds and a patio area.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 for more details.



# Tasks lie in wait to help wake garden for spring

**GREEN-FINGERED** Brits are being urged to set their seasonal alarm clocks and use the last few days of winter as the perfect opportunity to begin waking up their garden.

The horticulture experts at BillyOh.com said now is the perfect time to begin gently awakening your garden from its winter slumber and have compiled some top tips to help ambitious gardeners embark on a new growing adventure.

Before plant enthusiasts are able to jump into placing new flowers and shrubs, a number of general yard tasks must be undertaken to ensure gardens are prepped, organised and equipped to make the most of the blooming season.

From cleaning up your garden tools and tracking down pesky pests to pruning shrubs and trees and making a detailed plan for planting, these are the jobs you should be undertaking now in order to enjoy a successful and flourishing garden come spring.

A spokesman for BillyOh.com said: "If you're a gardening novice or if you're simply just itching to get started on your garden this year, you might think that you can just leave it 'til the last minute before rushing in to get everything done while in the throes of spring."

"But Rome wasn't built in a day, and there are certain preparations you should be making now in order to really get the most out of your garden during blooming season."

"As well as detailing some of the key jobs you should be starting as spring rolls around, we've also included a list of plants you should consider planting this year to create the ultimate garden haven."

## YARD TASKS

### 1. Clean up your yard or garden

Spend some time doing some general cleaning and tidying jobs by removing leaves and debris from your lawn, taking note of areas that need reseeded. If you have perennials from last year, cut down foliage and reserve it for your compost bin. Divide clumped perennials for later replanting or sharing with friends. You can also start fixing fences, gates and trellis so you'll have more time focusing on your plants after tidying up.

### 2. Wash and polish your garden tools

Your tools will likely need some TLC after months of non-use and hiding in the garden shed or basement. Shears and hand pruners may have accumulated dirt that, if left unwashed, could infect your newly-pruned plants. Almost all tools are easier to work with when cleaned and sharpened so take the time to hone

those spades, trowels and hoes with a file and apply lubricating oil.

### 3. Prune shrubs and trees

If you haven't got around to pruning your trees before or during winter, now is the best time to do so. Remove damaged, dead and diseased branches, but take note whether a certain plant is best pruned before spring growth or right after flowering.

Pruning fruit trees is best done in late winter or early spring. Also take time to thin dead foliage now before new growth begins and thinning becomes too difficult.

### 4. Track down garden pests

Slugs, snails, aphids and larvae may have been sheltering in the crowns or flip sides of your plants for the winter. Go after these hibernating pests before putting in new plants. There's a slew of pest control materials and methods to choose from but it's best to start with more natural means like homemade remedies or beneficial insects that will prey on the harmful ones.

### 5. Prepare the beds and reinvigorate the soil

It's a lot easier to pull out weeds now so go through it and rake the mulch that remained on the bed over the winter. But how will you know if your soil is ready for gardening since winter weather takes a hard toll on garden soil? An easy guide is to grab a handful of soil, squeeze it tightly, then open your fist. The soil should crumble instead of forming clumps. Take a soil test for pH level if necessary and enrich accordingly – add dolomitic lime to raise pH or sulphur to lower pH. Add in some compost or well-rotted manure too, using a spading fork to mix in everything perfectly well.

# Be smart and think twice over new meters



Act smart – and do your research on the new meters

HOUSEHOLDERS should think twice before rushing in to have a new smart meter installed in their home.

That's the advice from green energy expert Ron Fox who said the main disadvantage is that many of them will stop working if residents, wanting to reduce their bills, swap suppliers.

He said there were many advantages as they are internet-connected devices puts consumers in charge of their energy use by displaying the amount and cost of fuel usage.

Also they put a stop to estimated bills by sending automatic bills to the energy supplier and are designed to save the average householder £47 a year.

"But that major problem of losing the smart functionality outweighs the advantages and people should reject the first generation meters and wait for the technology to improve," said Mr Fox.

The trouble is that the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (Smets 2), the most advanced meters, have been delayed by technical issues and energy companies have been told to continue installing older Smets 1 devices as the Government wants to put 50 million meters in by 2020 in an £11 billion initiative.

Mr Fox said: "Don't be pressurized into having a smart meter."

"You can reject having one, but the problem comes when your old meter is broken and needs replacing."

"Then the supplier is allowed to install a smart meter in 'dumb' mode which means it works like the traditional, non-smart gas and electricity me-

ters without the latest technology, but you can still change energy supplier."

Already 8.6 million smart meters have been installed in the UK but \$66,000 of them are now working on "dumb" mode only.

However, the consumer body Which? said 40 per cent of people with a smart meter are dissatisfied with it.

Another serious worry is that some experts fear smart meters may be hacked and energy supplies could be disrupted in a terrorist attack.

Government research has shown that up to six million homes are thinking of rejecting them because of hacking and data protection fears.

## Spiralling

Meanwhile, energy companies are concerned with the spiralling costs of the project and some may use it as an excuse to put up prices for consumers.

Now a Government spokesperson is reported to have promised that the Smets 1 meters will be upgraded by the end of this year and will work efficiently regardless of the energy provider and that Smets 2 will soon be ready to install.

"The sooner the technology is improved the better," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd at Keele, Staffordshire. "You don't buy modern gadgets and expect to have to replace them after a few months."

"But that is what is happening with these smart meters if you change supplier. Householders should expect them to be installed properly and work consistently whichever energy company they use."

# List of chores is growing as Beast takes its leave

## ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



**ALTHOUGH** we have passed the first meteorological day of spring the recent icy blast brought by the so-called "Beast from the East" might have temporarily fooled us into thinking otherwise.

Yet the snow and sub-zero temperatures have provided only a brief reprieve to the gardener. The list of gardening jobs will lengthen as the days stretch out and it is important to get on top of them.

It is time to order or buy your seed potatoes right away as they will need time to chit before they are planted out. It doesn't really matter how you do this and I prefer to put them in egg boxes on a window ledge. It is important to keep the frost away from earlies which can be planted out by the end of the month so cover any shoots with fleece or straw.

Onions and shallots can also be planted out in a sunny well drained spot. Again, this should be done towards the back end of the month when temperatures are potentially going to have risen more evenly. The young sets should be buried up to their necks and protected from marauding birds especially pigeons which like to pull them up.

Finish your pruning now if you haven't done it already. As temperatures rise so does the sap and any shrubs or climbers such as roses, Buddleja, and summer flowering clematis will waste valuable energy putting out new growth only for you to snip it off later.

It is also getting to the end of the time when deciduous or evergreen hedges should be cut as birds will be thinking of nesting. More delicate evergreens like box can be held over until April as they can struggle to recover from pruning if the weather is too cold.

Shrubs which flower in winter or early spring and summer (i.e. before June) such as winter Jasmine, Deutzia or Forsythia should have the old growth thinned by a third. This is because they flower on wood grown the previous season. Leave on enough older growth to provide flowers for this year while allowing new growth to take the place of the old and give flowers for next year.

Slugs and snails will be waiting to take advantage of the new growth so don't delay



Finish your pruning now if you haven't done so already, Ross advises



Plant shallots, onions and potatoes in a sunny and well drained spot



Chit seed potatoes before planting them

in using control measures though apply them judiciously in order to avoid harming wildlife and especially bird life.

Many will also have been looking covetously at the lawn as a fresh cut can do so much to tidy up a garden. It is important not to do more harm than good so choose

a dry day and set your blades high to make the first cut. You are aiming to gently encourage the sward to thicken up rather than beating it into submission. Never remove more than a quarter of the total length of the grass blades. For anybody wishing to start a new lawn the ground should be pre-

pared now by digging and forking over to reduce the soil to a fine tilth. Hold off laying turf if you can or sowing seed as germination will be better once the soil temperature has risen more consistently above 6C.

All in all there is plenty to get on with though March should be welcomed by all.



Plants are watered at Gunby Hall



The Percy Pheasant Suite at The Elm Tree B&amp;B



Gunby Hall is set in beautiful Victorian walled gardens

# Time to take a walk on the Wolds side

## ON HOLIDAY

Report by Sharon Walters

**IF you love the great outdoors, you will love the Lincolnshire Wolds, and if you love quality accommodation you will love The Elm Tree luxury bed and breakfast on the edge of the Wolds.**

My visit to the Wolds was actually my first ever to Lincolnshire and having discovered the beauty of the area I now want to go back and take a look at the rest of the county.

But back to the Wolds, which has been an area of outstanding beauty for more than 40 years. And if you thought Lincolnshire was entirely flat, be prepared for a big surprise. It has hidden valleys, sleepy and pretty stone villages and charming market towns. Perfect for leisurely and not so leisurely strolls and walks and for wandering the byways of the towns filled with antique shops and independent stores – plus lovely coffee shops and pubs.

Out on the coast, close to Skegness – which is an entirely different experience – is Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve, an internationally recognised wildlife haven for seabirds. Take your binoculars and enjoy friends of the feathered variety at all times of the year.

Now back to the great outdoors, there are many walks of varying length including a 147 mile long distance footpath The Viking Way! But on the more leisurely side we did the Spa Trail, three miles of flat surfaced path and bridleway along the mid section of the Old Horncastle to Woodhall railway line with sculptures made from wood, stone and metal scattered along the route. Enchanting.

Once in Woodhall we stayed a while and wished we'd had more time. It's noted for its mineral springs and cinema "in the woods" – a cinema that takes you back in



The dog-friendly Elm Tree B&B has been extensively refurbished and offers a luxurious stay time with its design and also offering regular entertainment on an original Compton Kinestra 3 Manual / 9 Rank organ.

Perhaps more importantly for many of a certain age is its link with aviation and Second World War association with the RAF 617 Squadron – which carried out the Dam Busters Raid. There's a moving memorial to the squadron and all those lost from it during the war.

We visited Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre at East Kirkby where I have to say a tear or two were shed at the sound of a bomber firing up and in the chapel.

This is one of the most interesting and thoughtful museums of its type I've visited. Run by volunteers the centre allows

visitors to relive life on a World War Two bomber airfield. Based on an original wartime airfield, you can experience the sounds, sights and atmospheres it would have been in operation in those dark days.

There is such a lot to do in the Wolds, much too much to mention and we did pack a lot into a short weekend stay. But I have to include Gunby Hall, run by the National Trust for more than 70 years, also not far from Skegness. This isn't a terribly grand country house but a warm and homely property dating back to 1700 and set in beautiful Victorian walled gardens and grounds. It is quintessentially English and although in a remote location it has many famous connections including Dr Johnson

in the 18th century to Rudyard Kipling in the 20th. There are also links with Charles Darwin, Josiah Wedgwood, Virginia Woolf and Vaughan Williams.

At the end of a visit, try a sweet treat in the courtyard cafe, delicious homemade cakes and scones are included on the menu. And if you are on holiday with your dog, well-behaved pooches on leads are more than welcome in the gardens and courtyard.

And last, but certainly by no means least, The Elm Tree. Let's start by saying I am not keen on bed and breakfasts. They are so often too intimate with the owners and with little in the way of privacy. Yes, I know they can be very good but I don't like to feel as if I'm staying with a complete stranger in their home.

However, I am very keen on The Elm Tree. It is owned and run by Chris and Jonathan Wilkinson-White, Lincolnshire born and bred who have comprehensively refurbished what was more or less a derelict 19th century farmhouse. There are four bedrooms in the main property which has many antique furniture pieces.

All the rooms are luxury as are the spacious bathrooms which come with Neals Yard Remedy products and large and fluffy towels and robes. And yes, once again The Elms is dog-friendly even providing your four-legged friend with a welcoming pack of treats. There's a spacious landing area so you don't feel jammed in with other guests and... mine hosts live in the former carriage house to the property just a few yards away. Perfect.

Even though I love Jonathan's company as front man, if you want even more privacy there's also a self catering ground floor apartment.

We stayed in the "top" room, the Percy Pheasant Suite. Kingsize four poster bed with duckdown pillows and crisp white linen.

Jonathan does front of house in the perfect way, attentive when needed, but stepping back when not. Chris is behind the scenes and an excellent chef. Breakfast is five star, without doubt.

## Live it up with culture and shops in Liverpool

Report by Diane Davies

**THINK Liverpool and, a survey says, eight out of 10 people will think of The Beatles.**

The other two were thinking football – apparently there are one or two good teams up there.

Though if pressed many will remember Liverpool was the European Capital of Culture in 2008, the ferry across the Mersey will get a mention, the Cavern, the huge shopping centre, Albert Dock and possibly the impressive cathedrals.

Because there is so much more to Liverpool than four chaps who had a few hits (sorry Beatles fans) and 22 blokes chasing a ball (not sorry at all).

Liverpool has something for the whole family. It actually boasts more museums and galleries than anywhere in the UK outside London.

The waterfront is a Unesco World Heritage Site. A key draw to the area is Albert Dock – the reinvented former warehouse and dock buildings now home to a vibrant nightlife.

Among the attractions in this area are the Tate Gallery, The Beatles Story, Merseyside Maritime Museum and the striking Museum of Liverpool which opened just 10 years ago and houses 6,000 exhibits.

On the waterfront is the Ferry across the Mersey which no doubt has at least one person singing the Gerry and the Pacemakers song on every trip.

A must-see is the British Music Experience. From a Queen drum kit to Bowie outfits, Adele lyrics and a Honey G jacket there are exhibits from every generation with genres ranging from Skiffle and jazz to New Romantic and Madchester, heavy metal and glam rock to Britpop.

Exhibits come to life with holograms and interactive displays – and you get to play the drums, guitar, keyboards, practice dance moves and even record a song. Such fun!

The experience is situated in the Cunard Building one of the Three Graces, landmark buildings on Pier Head including the Royal Liver Building and iconic Liver Bird statues and the Port of Liverpool Building.

From here it is a short walk to Mathew Street and the famous Cavern quarter, a Mecca for Beatles, Cilla Black and in fact all music fans.

The main Fab Four sights can be visited on a number of city bus tours. We joined the City Sights Beatles and City Tour which lasts 90 minutes and includes such landmarks as Penny Lane and John Lennon's home but also takes in many city sights. If you aren't interested in the Beatles there is a 60-minute city-only tour. Both are hop on and hop off buses.

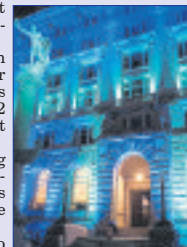
Impressive landmarks in the city are the Anglican Liverpool Cathedral and the Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. The traditional building has a panoramic view of the city – guaranteed to take your breath away after the 108 stairs to get 150m above sea level. The Catholic building opened in 1967 and is a circular design, hence the nickname Paddy's Wigwam, with stunning coloured glass and artworks.

To enjoy some retail therapy hit Liverpool One which has 170 shops, bars and restaurants. While the nearby Bold Street has been voted one of the best shopping streets in the country by Lonely Planet and has many independent stores selling funky clothes and art with a host of interesting places to eat too. We lunched at Love Thy Neighbour here. With the promise 'we want to make you feel good', Love They Neighbour offers an eclectic choice of dishes.

Catering for all, the menu offers a variety of mouth-watering options for vegetarians, vegans and those requiring gluten free or dairy free.

There is a huge choice of accommodation in Liverpool but we found a real gem – an apart hotel which proved a real home from home in the heart of the city. Dating back to 1906, the Richmond Apart Hotel Liverpool is a restored Grade II listed building in Hutton Garden close to a range of restaurants and bars and a short walk from the waterfront.

So to quote famous Scouser Gerry, we will be heading back to Liverpool very soon "cause this land's the place I love and here I'll stay".



## Wicker Man rollercoaster is now open at Alton Towers



Wicker Man opened to the public this spring

**THE newest rollercoaster at Alton Towers is now open for thrill-seekers to enjoy.**

The Wicker Man is the first wooden rollercoaster to be built in the UK for 21 years, with the unique thrill of fire.

This dramatic image shows a spectacular six-storey structure that is 57.7ft high.

It features a human face on one side and ram's head on the other, which bursts into flames as the train races through its chest. More than 40,000 tonnes of soil has been excavated to build the new attraction and the track spans 2,000ft.

It is made from naturally treated timber, hand-carved specifically for the project. Every ride houses two trains, each made up of six wooden carriages carrying 12 passengers.

The theme park in Staffordshire has invested £16 million into the creation of Wicker Man which has been in development for the last four years.

The new attraction opened to the public this spring.

Before boarding Wicker Man, riders will embark on a journey into the world of the Beornen, a secret community living in the woods around Alton.

Lured in by chanting, rhythmic sounds and unseen eyes watching them, guests will "be chosen" to take part in the cine-

matic 'pre-show' before braving the ride itself.

Francis Jackson, operations director at Alton Towers, said: "Wicker Man is Alton Towers' most ambitious project to date and we're really excited to finally reveal our newest thrill attraction to the world.

"We've spent four years creating an experience that is truly spectacular by investing in the latest technologies which combine wood, fire and special effects to give riders the genuine feeling that they will be racing through flames.

"We can't wait for everyone to experience Wicker Man."

Visit [altontowers.com/Wickerman](http://altontowers.com/Wickerman) for more information on the ride.

On call – Lucy finds her job very satisfying

The nature of our job means we are dealing with the worst of the worst

# What's your emergency?

## Need an ambulance? Control room worker Lucy is ready to act fast

**E**mergencies can come with no warning and calling 999 for an ambulance can often mean someone's life is in danger.

So when that call comes through, a trained team has to rapidly decide what action is needed to ensure the patient is given the best chance of recovery – or survival.

Every day incident command desk supervisor Lucy Parrott works as part of the team at West Midlands Ambulance Service's control room in Brierley Hill helping to ensure people receive the appropriate emergency care they need.

West Midlands Ambulance Service has two control rooms in Brierley Hill and Stafford that handle between 3,500 and 4,000 calls a day.

On one side of the room are the staff who answer the 999 calls and are responsible for recording the right information and offering advice or reassurance to the person on the other end of the line.

Anyone who saw last year's BBC One documentary Ambulance which provided a snapshot of the work of the service will have seen that this is a job that is not for the faint-hearted.

It can mean dealing with life or death emergencies such as a heart attack or drug overdose.

Essential details about the patient's condition and their exact location have to be logged accurately onto the computer system to ensure the right level of response.

They may, in extreme cases, have to talk the caller through an emergency procedure, such as clearing an obstruction from someone's airway.

Or, if they feel an ambulance isn't required, they might need to advise someone to visit their GP or emergency department instead.

Then there are the dispatchers who use a triage system to assess the type of emergency and determine the response needed, for example ambulance, rapid response car or air ambulance.

When a call-out becomes more complex or resource intensive such as a motorway pile-up or a suspected drowning, then it's passed on to the incident command desk to coordinate.

"It's for anything bigger than a normal 999 call. This can be anything from serious road traffic collisions and drownings to something having the potential to be a terrorist incident," explains Lucy, who has been working for the ambulance service for almost 10 years.

She first started as a call assessor after wanting to find



Life line – an ambulance is dispatched to an emergency

a job 'with purpose' but knowing she didn't want to be a paramedic. She later moved on to become an ambulance dispatcher before last year training as an incident command desk supervisor.

As part of Lucy's role, she will co-ordinate any specialist services such as the air ambulance or the Hazardous Area Response Team, which operates in challenging and often dangerous situations such as collapsed buildings or working at height.

### Radios

After they've been dispatched she will set up a 'talk group' on their radios so that the different teams attending the call-out can communicate with each other.

"This is really important because it means the first person to arrive can update those who are on the way so everybody knows what to expect," says Lucy, who lives with her police officer husband Gavin in Walsall.

She will receive regular updates from the scene so she knows whether extra resources and crews are required and will liaise with other services such as the fire service and police.

Sometimes emergency treatment or procedures are needed at the scene before patients can be taken to hospital.

"It's all about managing the emergency so that the patient gets the most appropriate response and care," says the 32-year-old.

With the overall number of calls to the ambulance service continuing to rise, it probably doesn't come as a

surprise to learn that there is no such thing as a typical day for the incident command desk.

"You can predict the pattern of the jobs because of the weather or the time of day when there is more traffic on the roads like when the children get out of school at 3pm or 4pm but no two days are ever the same," says Lucy.

One thing the team has noticed in recent years is a significant increase in the number of stabbings and shootings across the region.

"Ten years ago if one of us was dealing with a stabbing, we would all be like meerkats listening in to what was going on but now we've become desensitised to it really because they are becoming more common.

"Still terrible but not as rare as they once were," Lucy says.

But dealing with so many emergencies and situations that many of us couldn't bear to think about can be hard at times.

"The nature of our job means we are dealing with the worst of the worst. We are dealing with the most serious and most upsetting jobs.

"I can't say I never take it home. One of the most harrowing for me was a child that had drowned at a reservoir. Through the radio talk group, I could hear the mothers wailing. I could hear them but I couldn't do anything," she says.

Despite the serious nature of the job, she says it's "enormously rewarding" and there are some brighter moments for the team.

"It's satisfying when we go to a job like someone having a cardiac arrest and the patient is in a bad way but we get a really positive outcome," she says.

"Last year someone was having a cardiac arrest at Wolverhampton train station.

"The staff had done some CPR and there was a defibrillator at the station. By the time we got there the guy was breathing again.

"That was fantastic and that's even before we got there. We just needed to make sure he was stable and get him to hospital," Lucy says.

It can be frustrating for the team when a call is made for an ambulance in a situation when one isn't required.

"These are precious resources so it's important that we don't waste them.

"People do need to be more responsible with their own care," says Lucy.

"We don't want to be in a position where we can't send an ambulance to someone in a dire emergency."

Heather Large

## How the team respond to a 999 call . . .

West Midlands Ambulance Service receives about 3,500 to 4,000 999 calls every day at its emergency operations centres that cover Shropshire.

Call assessors take the 999 call and are responsible for recording the right information, often under difficult circumstances and offering advice or reassurance to the caller or patient. They will enter these details on to a computer system which categorises the seriousness of the illness or injury, to ensure that the most critical patients receive the fastest response.

While dispatchers co-ordinate the best response to the 999 call by looking at where the nearest ambulance, helicopter, paramedic officer or specialist team are in the area.

Each call is categorised – some will result in telephone advice and referral from the team of highly experienced clinical support desk paramedics, others will result in a blue-light response.

About five per cent of calls are dealt with by the paramedics in the control room.

### Treatment

Another 33 per cent are treated at the scene and only 55 per cent are actually taken to a treatment centre such as an A&E or a minor injuries unit.

The ambulance service serves a population of 5.6 million people covering an area of more than 5,000 square miles.

This is made up of Shropshire, the Black Country, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire, Coventry and Birmingham.

Employing more than 5,000 staff, the service provides about 300 ambulances as well as rapid response vehicles across the region every day.

The fleet of ambulances is prepared in one of its 15 hubs and responds from a network of more than 60 community ambulance stations.

All of the rapid response vehicles have a 4x4 capability and many are staffed by advanced paramedics who are treating an increasing number of patients in the comfort of their own home, without the need to go to hospital.



Building 'affordable' homes is proving a problem area for rural counties

# How do we keep rural housing affordable?

**S**ajid Javid says rarely a day goes by when he doesn't hear about somebody suffering from a housing problem, writes Mark Andrews.

"Having a decent roof over your head is not a luxury," says the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

As he tries to tackle England's housing crisis, two charities are urging Mr Javid to spare a thought for those in rural communities whose problems often seem to be overlooked.

Rebecca Pullinger, of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and Rose Grayston, of housing charity Shelter, say that closing a loophole which allows house builders to avoid commitments for affordable housing would be a step in the right direction.

Under the present system, any development of 10 homes or more must normally include an element of "affordable" housing, which is available to rent through a social landlord at below market rent.

However, builders can be exempted from this if it is considered the requirement would make a scheme unviable, which is defined as giving the developer a "competitive" return.

The two charities have published a report looking at eight rural areas across England – including Shropshire – and shows there are huge variations in the willingness of local authorities

to relax their requirements on affordable housing to meet housebuilding targets.

The issue is particularly problematic in rural areas.

On the one hand, the need for housing is putting the greenbelt under increasing pressure, as councils look for ways to meet housing targets.

On the other, developers prefer to build the more lucrative "high-end" homes for obvious reasons, doing little to alleviate the need for affordable housing.

What these exclusive developments do, though, is attract well-heeled city-dwellers looking to make their flight to the country.

If these newcomers bring teenage children with them, it will also exacerbate the problem when the time comes for them to leave home.

The report looks at how viability exemptions have affected the number of affordable homes in eight rural counties – County Durham, South Lakeland, Yorkshire and the Humber, Newark and Sherwood in the East Midlands, Shropshire, central Bedfordshire, Horsham and Cornwall.

The research found that on a number of schemes only 1,028 of the 1,966 affordable homes required by local authority policy guidelines were actually delivered.

The findings echo the comments of construction boss Wayne Holt, who said that Government housing targets were actually making the shortage of affordable housing worse.

Mr Holt, executive director of civil engineering consultants Design2e, said that placing local authorities under pressure to meet targets for new homes meant that developers held the upper hand when negotiating with councils what types of houses they would build.

The good news is that, over the 12-month period the research was carried out, none of these lost opportunities were in Shropshire.

"Shropshire Council's robust, evidence-based approach to its affordable housing policy may account for this," says Miss Grayston.

The council is praised for its flexible approach to meeting changing needs for affordable housing based on up-to-date figures.

It also operates different policies in different locations, depending on the demand and the availability of suitable sites.

"Shropshire sets out clear expectations of when a viability appraisal might be acceptable and how it should be completed," says Miss Grayston.

"Shropshire is an example of a rural authority maximising affordable housing provision through effective local policies, in the context of unnecessary national policy hurdles to overcome."

That said, the report says affordability of housing relative to people's incomes is a growing problem.

"In common with other areas in our study, Shropshire's natural environment has made it a desirable place to live – and buy holiday homes," says Miss Pullinger of the CPRE.

"The area's popularity with second homeowners and older people looking for a pleasant place to retire has driven a buoyant housing market, but wages for local working-age people remain too low to afford the new homes being built."

"Homes cost on average seven times local earnings, underlining the need for affordable sub-market homes to house local people."

They call for the new planning framework to include a requirement for developers and landowners to take into account the need for affordable housing when they first draw up schemes and agree land prices. This would prevent developers from paying over the odds for land, and trying to recoup the costs by getting out of the affordable housing commitments, the report says. Negotiations between developers and local authorities on affordable housing provision should be held in public, the report says. It also calls for a tightening of the loophole which allows building firms to define what they consider a "competitive return", saying it should be up to the council to decide what is an acceptable profit margin.

**'Developers prefer to build the more lucrative 'high-end' homes'**

# Form orderly queue for new 10p coin set



The new set of 10p coins from A to Z

**WE are the world's biggest queue enthusiasts, we love a nice cuppa, and live in the country that gave the world cricket.**

Now a selection of quintessentially British traits and emblems of our fascinating heritage are being celebrated with a new collection of 10p coins.

The collection has now entered circulation and, according to The Royal Mint, showcases the 'A to Z' of what makes Britain great.

The 26 designs – one for each letter of the alphabet – were inspired by a public vote and chosen by The Royal Mint's advisory committee.

They were unveiled just days after the Bank of England 'Charles Darwin' £10 notes were officially withdrawn.

Among the new coins is the Angel of the

By Pete Madeley

but then it was pointed out that Her Majesty is on the other side of all 26 coins.

Meanwhile a whole host of great British inventions missed the cut, including the lawnmower, the telephone, the chocolate bar and cement.

The coins are being handed out as change in Post Offices, while uncirculated collectable packs can be bought from the Royal Mint website.

Anne Jessopp, chief executive at the Royal Mint, said: "I see this as a celebration of all things British and quirky."

"These designs were selected because we feel they represent a diverse mix of elements that make up the country we all love."

"There is a lot to be proud of in the UK – whether it's at the highest level, our Houses of Parliament representing democracy and freedom of speech, technological advancements such as Tim Berners-Lee's world wide web, or just a good cup of tea, it's all here in the designs."

The coins have been an early hit with collectors, who were so desperate to get their hands on them when they launched, that the Mint's own website crashed within minutes.

## Collectors

Coin collectors wishing to get their hands on the entire collection can download the Great British Coin Hunt app for free.

It allows users to scan a picture of the coin and place it into a digital collectors folder.

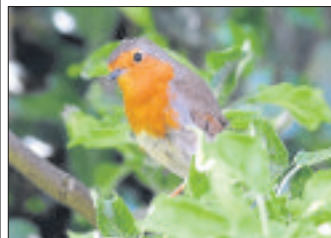
It also features a heat map to show where certain coins have been found around the country.

The app will also direct people to 'swap shops' where they can trade coins with fellow collectors.

A collectors' folder and uncirculated versions of the 10p coins will be available to buy from The Royal Mint website.

Serious collectors can pick-up a presentation pack for £9.90, while for those who really want to push the boat out, silver commemorative coins are available at £35.

The full list:  
A – Angel of the North; B – Bond... James Bond; C – Cricket; D – Double Decker Bus; E – English Breakfast; F – Fish & Chips; G – Greenwich Mean Time; H – Houses of Parliament; I – Ice-Cream Cone; J – Jubilee; K – King Arthur; L – Loch Ness Monster; M – Mackintosh; N – National Health Service; O – Oak Tree; P – Post Box; Q – Queuing; R – Robin; S – Stonehenge; T – Teapot; U – Union Flag; V – Village; W – World Wide Web; X – X Marks the Spot; Y – Yeoman; Z – Zebra Crossing.



The robin represents 'R'

North and James Bond, the Loch Ness Monster and King Arthur.

The world wide web – invented by Englishman Tim Berners-Lee – also gets a coin, as do those great symbol of British stability the Oak tree and the Union flag.

Britain's number one spy James Bond is recognised, as is the teapot – a reference to the fact that we drink gallons of the stuff despite not growing any of it – the Houses of Parliament and the Zebra crossing.

Some of the coins have already proved controversial.

For the letter 'F', fish and chips was chosen over football, which we did invent even though we aren't very good at it.

However, British sporting ineptitude did not stop cricket getting the nod for 'C'.

Some have queried the decision to give the National Health Service a 10p coin, arguing that a 5p coin would be more appropriate given its issues with funding.

Royalists were initially up in arms at the fact that our national pastime of queuing was given the 'Q' coin ahead of the Queen,



An affordable housing scheme in Shrewsbury

# April 7



## Match of the Day

10.30pm

Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium and Everton v Liverpool at Goodison Park.



## Commonwealth Games 2018

6am

Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage of the third day in Queensland, with artistic gymnastics, netball and track cycling among the sports taking place.



## Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway

7pm

Declan Donnelly presents the finale live from Florida, with super-sized audience surprises, incredible stunts and celebrity guests. Last in the series.



## Coastal Railways with Julie Walters

7pm

The actress travels on the famous Great Western Railway, visiting a supposedly haunted castle at Kingswear and recalling childhood holidays in Torquay.



## Football on 5: The Championship

9pm

Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Cardiff City v Wolverhampton Wanderers.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**  
**10.00 Commonwealth Games 2018.** Further live coverage from Queensland, as day three of the Games continues with swimming, track cycling and netball all high on the agenda.
- 12.00 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to forthcoming fixtures, including Manchester City v Manchester United and Everton v Liverpool in the Premier League.
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**  
**1.15 Golf: The Masters Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the second day at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, where Sergio Garcia entered as the reigning champion at the first Major of the year.
- 2.15 Commonwealth Games 2018.** Jason Mohammad presents highlights from Queensland, with swimming, artistic gymnastics, track cycling and triathlon all taking place on day three of the Games.
- 4.30 Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.  
**5.15 A Question of Sport.** With Mark Butcher and Siobhan-Marie O'Connor. (R)
- 5.45 Doodlebugs.** Sketch show in which inanimate objects talk.
- 6.00 Ready or Not.** Game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public who face surprise challenges while going about their daily lives. Paddy McGuinness provides the commentary.
- 6.30 BBC News.**  
**6.40 Midlands Today; Weather.**  
**6.50 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a writers' special of the general knowledge quiz, featuring Charlie Higson, Sally Gardner, Fern Britton, Jilly Cooper and Martina Cole.
- 7.40 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
- 8.20 Casualty.** Ethan treats a pregnant woman who was rushed to the ED after her waters broke at a bus stop. Sam admits to lain that she is worried about Dylan's alcoholism, and wants to help him.
- 9.10 Troy: Fall of a City.** The Trojans are stunned to discover a deserted Greek camp, and all that remains on the beach is an offering to the gods in the form of a large, wooden horse. Last in the series.
- 10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Manchester United.
- 11.55 Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers introduces live coverage on day four of the Games in Queensland, with swimming, boxing and hockey some of the standout sports on today's schedule.
- 4.00 Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers presents further live coverage of day four in Queensland, with swimming, boxing and women's hockey all part of the day's programme.

## BBC2

- 6.00 Commonwealth Games 2018.** Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage of the third day in Queensland, with artistic gymnastics, netball and track cycling among the sports taking place.
- 10.00 Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the grand final between robots Aftershock, Eruption, Ironside 3, Concussion, Carbide and an unconfirmed wild card. Last in the series. (R)
- 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** Martin Roberts, Lucy Alexander and Dion Dublin visit properties up for auction in Ilkeston in Derbyshire, Sittingbourne in Kent, and South Norwood in south-east London. (R)
- 12.00 Commonwealth Games 2018.** Clare Balding presents live coverage as day three of the Games reaches its conclusion with swimming medals up for grabs in the women's 200m breaststroke and 4x200m freestyle relay.
- 2.15 MasterChef.** The semi-finals continue as the remaining six contenders have 90 minutes to cook dishes inspired by Italian cuisine, before one of the hopefuls is eliminated. (R)
- 2.45 MasterChef.** As the semi-finals continue, the eight remaining cooks in the competition head to RAF Halton in Aylesbury to celebrate 100 years of the RAF's formation. (R)
- 3.45 Escape to the Country.** Jonnie Irwin helps a couple with a £450,000 budget who want to escape urban life in Luton and find a rural home in the Norfolk countryside. (R)
- 4.15 Money for Nothing.** Transforming items reclaimed at the Walsall Recycling Centre, including a set of lathe tools, a sofa and a collection of plant pots. (R)
- 5.00 Big Cats About the House.** An injured cheetah needs Giles's help, while Maya becomes famous after appearing on breakfast TV – but her behaviour is pushing the family to their limits. Last in the series. (R)
- 6.00 Today at the Games.** Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the third day of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, with England's Adam Peaty, Alistair Brownlee and Max Whitlock all set to be involved.
- 7.30 Golf: The Masters Live.** Eilidh Barbour introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues.
- 12.00 FILM: Having You (2013).** A man wrestling with a fear of commitment is suddenly confronted with the news that he has a seven-year-old son. Drama, with Anna Friel, Andrew Buchan and Romola Garai.
- 1.30 Civilisations.** David Olusoga shows art was always on the frontline when distant cultures meet, including bronzes that record the meeting of an ancient West African kingdom and Portuguese voyagers. (R)
- 2.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.**  
**2.35 BBC News.**

## ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures**
- 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go!** The teenage superheroes fight to save the world. (R)
- 8.10 Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show.** The duo build their own playground. (R)
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go.** The roll-out of GDF rescue machines runs into trouble.
- 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time.** Fun for children. (R)
- 9.25 ITV News.**  
**9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** With comedian Chris Ramsey and chef Kenny Atkinson.
- 11.25 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Ian "H" Watkins plays celebrity host. (R)
- 12.20 The Harbour.** The summer season ends on a high. Last in the series. (R)
- 12.50 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**  
**1.00 Midsomer Murders.** Country magazine Midsomer Life and its outspoken owner come under scrutiny from Barnaby and Jones when a body is discovered in woodland. Drama, starring John Nettles. (R)
- 3.00 Tenable.** A team from East Sussex plays the game. (R)
- 4.00 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shepherd. (R)
- 5.00 The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 6.00 ITV News and Weather.**  
**6.15 ITV News Central; Weather.**  
**6.30 New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps, featuring a camel that smashes a car window, a runaway speedboat causing a traffic accident and a drummer crushed by a crucifix.
- 7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Declan Donnelly presents the finale live from Universal Orlando Resort in Florida, with super-sized audience surprises, incredible stunts and celebrity guests. Last in the series.
- 8.30 The Voice UK – Live Final.** The grand final of the spinning-chair singing contest, as the remaining four singers battle it out to land a recording contract with Polydor Records. Last in the series.
- 10.10 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**  
**10.30 FILM: Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (2011).** Premiere. The detective meets his match in the elusive mastermind behind an international network of crime. Detective thriller sequel, starring Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law.
- 12.40 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- Babushka.** Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)

## Channel 4

- 6.15 Mobil 1: The Grid.** Daniel Ricciardo previews the Bahrain and Chinese Grands Prix.
- 6.45 Motor Sport: British GT.** Round one from Oulton Park.
- 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert ruins the wedding invitations. (R)
- 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray encounters an old enemy. (R)
- 8.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra wonders how Ray would cope if she died. (R)
- 9.05 Frasier.** The shrink confronts his neighbours. (R)
- 9.35 Frasier.** Eddie receives psychiatric help. (R)
- 10.05 Frasier.** The Crane brothers land a double date. (R)
- 10.35 The Big Bang Theory.** Raj faces being sent back to India. (R)
- 11.05 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon faces his arch-enemy – actor Wil Wheaton. (R)
- 11.35 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon teaches Leonard about American football. (R)
- 12.00 The Simpsons.** Homer becomes the new voice of American politics. (R)
- 12.30 The Simpsons.** Lisa begins a whirlwind romance with her intellectual match. (R)
- 1.00 Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** Coverage from the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhr.
- 2.30 F1 Meets David Coulthard.** Lee McKenzie sits down with the former F1 driver to discuss his career. (R)
- 2.55 Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** Coverage from the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhr (Start-time 4.00pm).
- 5.45 Car SOS.** Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townsend attempt to rescue a Datsun 240z. (R)
- 6.40 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.** The actress travels on the famous Great Western Railway, visiting a supposedly haunted castle at Kingswear and recalling childhood holidays when she stops at Torquay. (R)
- 8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns.** New series. Alice Roberts explores the UK's past through the stories of its towns, beginning with Chester, examining its Roman heritage by delving into the town's history.
- 9.00 FILM: Legend (2015).** Biopic of the Kray brothers, exploring their rise to power from the point of view of Reggie's wife Frances. Starring Tom Hardy as both twins, with Emily Browning.
- 11.35 FILM: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012).** A man destined to become one of America's greatest presidents devotes his life to battling the undead. Fantasy thriller, starring Benjamin Walker and Dominic Cooper.
- 1.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Gordon Ramsay heads to the Prohibition Grille in Everett, Washington. (R)
- 2.20 Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Sienna surprises Joel with a gift. (R)
- 4.30 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.** (R)
- 4.45 Building the Dream.** A couple plan to build a contemporary home. (R)
- 5.40 Streetmate.** Scarlett Moffatt helps Lucy and Zantha find love. (R)

## Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Milkshake! Monkey 6.25 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.30 Mofy 6.35 Simon 6.40 Peppa Pig 6.50 Paw Patrol 7.00 Thomas & Friends 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.30 Olly the Little White Van 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.10 Paw Patrol 8.30 Nella the Princess Knight 8.45 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig**
- 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** A flashback episode exploring Splinter's origins.
- 10.35 The Gadget Show.** The team puts the latest outdoor gadgets to the test. (R)
- 11.30 Traffic Cops.** An insight into the working life of officers patrolling Yorkshire's roads. (R)
- 12.30 Traffic Cops.** A teenage driver leads officers on a high-speed chase across Leeds. (R)
- 1.30 Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union.** Bath v Leicester Tigers (Kick-off 2.00pm)
- 4.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents try to collect nearly £2,500 in unpaid parking fines. (R)
- 5.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Officers chase a debt of nearly £50,000 in unpaid rent. (R)
- 6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Two agents get caught up in a dispute between a landlord and a tenant who refuses to move out, while on the south coast, debt collection from a Turkish restaurant gets complicated. (R)
- 7.00 The Secret Life of Owls.** Part one of two. Cameras follow the lives of owls living in rural Essex on a former First World War airfield during winter, spring and summer.
- 8.00 Everest: World's Greatest Mountain.** Cameras explore the wonder of the world's most iconic mountains, beginning with the highest in the world – Mount Everest. (R)
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Cardiff City v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Norwich City v Aston Villa.
- 10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Scunthorpe United and Grimsby Town v Chesterfield.
- 10.30 20 Moments That Rocked the 90s.** Cold Feet star Helen Baxendale presents a countdown of memorable moments from the 1990s, including the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and the chart battle between Blur and Oasis. (R)
- 12.00 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 FILM: The Other Guys (2010).** Action comedy, with Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg.
- 4.55 Great Scientists.** (R)  
**5.20 Wildlife SOS.** The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R)

The Ticket

To advertise in this space call Bev Thompson on 01691 668092



**The Generation Game**  
8pm  
Family pairs from different generations battle it out in games including cake decorating, balloon modelling, and dancing the Argentine Tango with Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.



**Golf: The Masters Live**  
6.30pm  
Eilidh Barbour introduces coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year concludes.



**Change Your Tune**  
7pm  
More bad singers undergo training, including a woman who wants to sing at her father's birthday and a swimming coach who wants to duet with her boyfriend. Baz Ashmawy presents.



**Homeland**  
9pm  
Carrie and Saul interrogate a suspect, while Wellington makes a play. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Linus Roache.



**When Live News Goes Horribly Wrong**  
9pm  
Memorable mishaps from live news broadcasts, including the President of Estonia walking out of an interview with Dermot Murnaghan.

BBC1	
6.00	<b>Breakfast.</b>
7.30	<b>Match of the Day.</b> Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium and Everton v Liverpool at Goodison Park. (R)
9.00	<b>The Andrew Marr Show.</b>
10.00	<b>The Big Questions.</b> Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from Manor CE Academy, York.
11.00	<b>Commonwealth Games 2018.</b> Clare Balding presents further live coverage from day four of the Games in Queensland, featuring swimming at the Optus Aquatic Centre and track cycling at the Anna Meares Velodrome.
1.30	<b>BBC News; Weather.</b>
1.45	<b>Commonwealth Games 2018.</b> Jason Mohammad introduces live coverage from Queensland, as day four comes to a close with various swimming finals at the Optus Aquatic Centre.
4.30	<b>Songs of Praise.</b> Sean Fletcher explores the power of singing to express the Christian faith and Alexandra Burke speaks of how her late mother inspired her to sing and perform.
5.05	<b>Celebrity Mastermind.</b> CBBC's Lauren Layfield, broadcaster and journalist David Aaronovitch, BBC Breakfast's Tim Muffett and Paralympian Kadeena Cox take a seat in the famous black chair. (R)
5.35	<b>BBC News.</b>
5.50	<b>Midlands Today; Weather.</b>
6.00	<b>The Big Painting Challenge.</b> Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles travel to the Cotswolds, where nine painters work with their professional mentors to conquer techniques to depict nature in all its glory.
7.00	<b>Countryfile.</b> Sean Fletcher and Naomi Wilkinson present the show from Loch Ness, meeting a seventh generation crofter and a sporan maker and tapping birch trees for sap. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00	<b>The Generation Game.</b> Family pairs from different generations battle it out in games including cake decorating, balloon modelling, and dancing the Argentine Tango with Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.
9.00	<b>Ordeal by Innocence.</b> Arthur presents irrefutable proof that Jack is innocent, which stirs up tension among the members of the Argyll family, who realise that one of them may be the murderer.
10.00	<b>BBC News.</b>
10.20	<b>Midlands Today; Weather.</b>
10.30	<b>Match of the Day 2.</b> Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, with highlights of Arsenal v Southampton at the Emirates Stadium.
11.30	<b>Commonwealth Games 2018.</b> JJ Chalmers introduces live coverage as day five gets under way in Queensland, with athletics dominating the early schedule.
4.00	<b>Commonwealth Games 2018.</b> JJ Chalmers presents further live coverage of day five in Queensland, with athletics and netball part of the day's early programme.

BBC2	
6.00	<b>Commonwealth Games 2018.</b> Hazel Irvine presents live coverage as day four of the Games continues in Queensland, with artistic gymnastics, athletics and hockey all taking place.
9.00	<b>Commonwealth Games 2018.</b> Clare Balding presents further live coverage from day four of the Games in Queensland, featuring swimming at the Optus Aquatic Centre and track cycling at the Anna Meares Velodrome. Coverage continues on BBC1.
11.00	<b>Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.</b> Matt Tebbutt presents highlights from throughout the series, offering viewers a chance to revisit some of their favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen.
12.30	<b>MasterChef.</b> The remaining amateurs serve a three-course fish lunch to celebrate 100 years of women's right to vote, and then create one plate of food inspired by someone they admire. (R)
1.30	<b>MasterChef.</b> The best six amateurs are tasked to impress top restaurant critics Tracey MacLeod, Tom Parker Bowles and Fay Maschler as they compete in the last of the semi-finals. (R)
2.00	<b>The Secret Helpers.</b> A woman seeks advice as she prepares for a job interview, and an injured soldier who has returned from a tour in Afghanistan looks for help as he starts a new life with his family. (R)
3.00	<b>FILM: Emma (1996).</b> A privileged, headstrong young woman is busy playing matchmaker for her friends – unaware she has found her own soulmate. Jane Austen drama, with Gwyneth Paltrow and Ewan McGregor.
5.00	<b>Today at the Games.</b> Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present day four's action at the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, with artistic gymnast Max Whitlock vying for two of the 20 gold medals on offer.
6.30	<b>Golf: The Masters Live.</b> Eilidh Barbour introduces coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year concludes.
12.00	<b>FILM: The Rookie (2002).</b> Fact-based drama about a former baseball player who returns to the big time while coaching a high-school team. Starring Dennis Quaid, Rachel Griffiths and Jay Hernandez.
2.00	<b>Sign Zone: Countryfile.</b> Matt Baker, Anita Rani and Joe Crowley explore West Yorkshire, meeting a beekeeper who came to the county as a refugee and discovering Emily Bronte's passion for wildlife. (R)
2.55	<b>Sign Zone: Holby City.</b> Roxanna questions Gaskell's motives when he takes on a controversial new case, and Fletch clashes with new CEO Abigail over a vulnerable patient. (R)
3.55	<b>Weather for the Week Ahead.</b>
4.00	<b>BBC News.</b>

ITV	
6.00	<b>CITV: Sooty 6.10</b> Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids <b>6.20</b> Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids <b>6.35</b> Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures <b>6.50</b> Super 4 <b>7.00</b> Signed Stories: Share a Story <b>7.05</b> Thunderbirds Are Go
7.30	<b>Scrambled!: Scrambled!</b>
7.35	<b>Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.</b> Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.50	<b>Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go!</b> The teenage superheroes fight to save the world. (R)
8.10	<b>Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.</b> Bean enters a marrow-growing contest. (R)
8.30	<b>Scrambled!: Spy School.</b> Olympic athletes begin turning to crime. Last in the series.
9.05	<b>Scrambled!: Adventure Time.</b> Fun for children. (R)
9.25	<b>ITV News.</b>
9.30	<b>Love Your Garden.</b> The green-fingered experts help transform a Hull nurse's garden. (R)
10.00	<b>The Voice UK – Live Final.</b> The grand final of the spinning-chair singing contest. Last in the series. (R)
11.40	<b>Change Your Tune.</b> Baz Ashmawy hosts the musical challenge. (R)
12.40	<b>ITV News and Weather; Weather.</b>
1.00	<b>Ant &amp; Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.</b> The entertainment show comes live from Universal Orlando Resort in Florida. Last in the series. (R)
2.30	<b>Britain's Brightest Family.</b> Two families compete in the final round of the quarter-finals. (R)
3.00	<b>Tenable.</b> Quiz, hosted by Warwick Davis. (R)
4.00	<b>You've Been Framed!</b> Comical clips, narrated by Harry Hill. (R)
4.30	<b>ITV News and Weather.</b>
4.45	<b>ITV News Central; Weather.</b>
5.00	<b>Tipping Point.</b> Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
6.00	<b>The Chase: Celebrity Special.</b> Bradley Walsh invites Sally Phillips, Rick Wakeman, Jenny Jones and Alistair McGowan to take part in another star-studded edition of the quiz show. (R)
7.00	<b>Change Your Tune.</b> More bad singers undergo training, including a woman who wants to sing at her father's birthday and a swimming coach who wants to duet with her boyfriend. Baz Ashmawy presents.
8.00	<b>The Durrells.</b> Larry goes to Athens on a short trip, and returns with a royal guest. Louisa is delighted to have a prince under her roof, but soon finds herself with a less welcome visitor.
9.00	<b>The Good Karma Hospital.</b> Ruby is still reeling from her discoveries at the tea plantation, and must decide if she can forgive past mistakes. Meanwhile, Mari goes head to head with Lydia.
10.00	<b>ITV News and Weather; Weather.</b>
10.20	<b>The Olivier Awards 2018.</b> Catherine Tate hosts the theatrical awards, which features performances from nominated musicals including Hamilton, 42nd Street, Follies and Young Frankenstein.
12.15	<b>100 Year Old Driving School.</b> (R)
12.40	<b>Marcella.</b> (R)
1.30	<b>Jackpot247.</b>
3.00	<b>British Superbike Championship Highlights.</b>
3.50	<b>ITV Nightscreen.</b>
5.05	<b>The Jeremy Kyle Show.</b> (R)

Channel 4	
6.10	<b>Race of Champions 2018.</b> Action from the annual event.
7.05	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Debra throws a bridal shower for Amy. (R)
7.30	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Robert asks Ray to lend him a suitcase. (R)
8.00	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ray gives Robert a second bachelor party. (R)
8.25	<b>Frasier.</b> Niles throws a house-warming party. (R)
9.00	<b>Frasier.</b> Roz does community service at a retirement home. (R)
9.30	<b>Sunday Brunch.</b> With Vernon Kay, Kathleen Turner, Alex Jones, Tom Rosenthal, Ryan Sampson and Michiel Huisman.
12.45	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Grampa tries to woo a beautiful woman. (R)
1.15	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Aliens probe Homer's memory. (R)
1.45	<b>The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer.</b> Alan Carr, Aisling Bea, Kadeena Cox and Teri Hatcher compete. Last in the series. (R)
3.00	<b>Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Live Build Up.</b> Steve Jones presents a look ahead to the action.
3.45	<b>Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Live.</b> Coverage of the second round of the season (Start-time 4.10pm).
6.20	<b>Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Live Reaction.</b> Steve Jones and a panel of experts discuss the second round of the season from the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir.
6.45	<b>Channel 4 News.</b>
7.00	<b>Escape to the Chateau.</b> Series following a British family that buys and restores a French chateau. Their new home has stood empty for 40 years, and has no electricity, heating or water. (R)
8.00	<b>Jesus' Female Disciples: The New Evidence.</b> Theologians Helen Bond and Joan Taylor embark on a journey around the world in search of evidence of the role played by women in the beginnings of Christianity.
9.00	<b>Homeland.</b> Carrie and Saul interrogate a suspect, while Wellington makes a play.
10.05	<b>8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.</b> Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and Chris Addison take on Joe Wilkinson and Katherine Ryan, while David O'Doherty helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
11.00	<b>FILM: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011).</b> A former intelligence operative is brought out of retirement to uncover a Soviet mole in a high-ranking position in MI6. Cold War thriller, starring Gary Oldman and Colin Firth.
1.25	<b>FILM: Shubh Mangal Saavdhan (2017).</b> Premiere. Comedy, starring Ayushmann Khurrana.
3.25	<b>KOTV Boxing Weekly.</b>
3.45	<b>Mobil 1: The Grid.</b> Daniel Ricciardo previews the Bahrain and Chinese Grands Prix. (R)
4.10	<b>Building the Dream.</b> A couple plan to build a four-bedroom home with a farmhouse feel. (R)
5.10	<b>Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.</b> (R)
5.30	<b>Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star.</b> Helping struggling hotel and guest-house owners. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	<b>Milkshake!</b> Little Princess <b>6.10</b> Wissper <b>6.20</b> Milkshake! Monkey <b>6.25</b> Mofy <b>6.30</b> The Secret Life of Puppies <b>6.35</b> Simon <b>6.40</b> Peppa Pig <b>6.45</b> Paw Patrol <b>7.00</b> Thomas & Friends <b>7.10</b> Fireman Sam <b>7.20</b> Olly the Little White Van <b>7.30</b> Blaze and the Monster Machines <b>7.55</b> Paw Patrol <b>8.10</b> Nella the Princess Knight <b>8.25</b> Noddy: Toyland Detective <b>8.40</b> Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom <b>9.00</b> Shimmer and Shine <b>9.15</b> Digby Dragon <b>9.35</b> Peppa Pig
9.40	<b>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.</b> An army of undead monsters is unleashed on the city.
10.15	<b>Football on 5: The Championship.</b> Including highlights of Cardiff City v Wolverhampton Wanderers. (R)
11.10	<b>Football on 5: Goal Rush.</b> Including highlights of AFC Wimbledon v Scunthorpe United. (R)
11.45	<b>Traffic Cops.</b> A suspected stolen car fitted with cloned number plates crashes. (R)
12.45	<b>FILM: Oliver! (1968).</b> Musical, starring Ron Moody.
3.35	<b>FILM: The Deep End of the Ocean (1999).</b> Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer.
4.35	<b>5 News Update.</b>
4.40	<b>FILM: The Deep End of the Ocean (1999).</b> Concluded.
5.45	<b>FILM: Marley &amp; Me (2008).</b> Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.
6.45	<b>5 News Update.</b>
6.50	<b>FILM: Marley &amp; Me (2008).</b> Concluded.
8.00	<b>Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!</b> In Coventry, the sheriffs chase £10,000 owed by a publican to a contractor, while agents in central London try to recover almost £8,000 owed to a firm of accountants. (R)
8.55	<b>5 News Weekend.</b>
9.00	<b>When Live News Goes Horribly Wrong.</b> Moira Stuart narrates memorable mishaps from live news broadcasts, including the President of Estonia walking out of an interview with Dermot Murnaghan.
11.50	<b>Football On 5: The Checkatrade Trophy.</b> Lincoln City v Shrewsbury Town. Action from the final between the respective League Two and League One sides, which took place at Wembley Stadium.
12.20	<b>Criminals Caught on Camera.</b> Nick Wallis exposes the rise of smash-and-grab raids in the UK, committed by gangs who are using increasing levels of violence. (R)
1.10	<b>SuperCasino.</b> Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	<b>FILM: Resident Evil: Afterlife (2010).</b> Zombie-fighting heroine Alice's search for human survivors leads her into a deadly trap. Action horror sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller.
4.45	<b>House Doctor.</b> Ann Maurice helps a chauffeur and his girlfriend spruce up their neglected seaside bungalow in Essex to make it more attractive to potential buyers. (R)
5.10	<b>Great Scientists.</b> Isaac Newton's revolutionary theories. (R)

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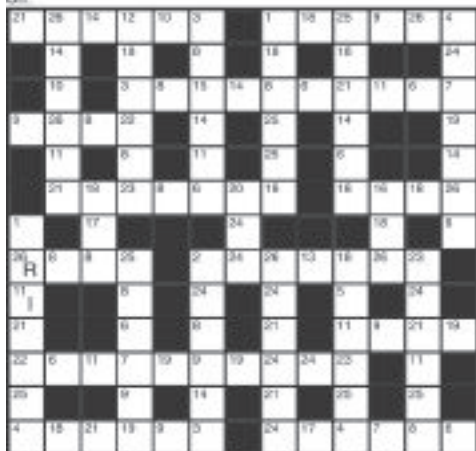
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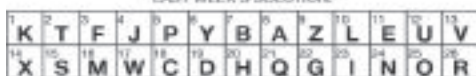
No.466

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

6. Keeps earth-bound for certain reason (7)  
 7. Topless figure with a tan? (5)  
 9 & 19Ac. Vegetable to decay at the back of the vehicle (6)  
 10. Decree one should be encircled by heavy artillery (6)  
 12. One man went to mow! (11)  
 15. Where a man keeps his capital and his account (3,3,2)  
 17. Could it show the force of a testament? (8)  
 19. See 9 Across.  
 21. What directors do for the film animal (5)  
 22. Unreliability if semi-small goes astray (7)

## Down

- 1 & 16Dn. Retarding mechanism faulty, we hear - message to escape (5,5)  
 2. See 20 Down  
 3. German flower produces a certain fragrance, one hears! (4)  
 4. I'm having a preference for being unbiased (8)  
 5. See 13 Down.  
 8. America is after the record for this event (8)  
 11. Hospital attendants in whom discipline resides (8)  
 13 & 5Dn. Pedagogue chose the carol, maybe (8,7)  
 14. Yet an allusion about a football team causes concern (7)  
 16. See 1 Down  
 18. Angela Nolan could show impetuosity (6)  
 20 & 2Dn. Display to put down in the open air (6)  
 22. Amaze (7)



## Quick Clues:

## Across

6. Pagan (7)  
 7. Faithful (5)  
 9. Grow older (3)  
 10. Indiscreet (6)  
 12. Of inferior quality (6-5)  
 15. Foot soldiers (11)  
 17. Unceasing (8)  
 19. Snoop (3)  
 21. Sharp (5)  
 22. Amaze (7)

## Down

1. Simulate (5)  
 2. Pig pen (3)  
 3. Judge (4)  
 4. Venetian boatman (8)  
 5. Serious (7)  
 8. Weekday (6)  
 11. Lay waste (8)  
 13. Tip (6)  
 14. Ball (7)  
 16. Salt water (5)  
 18. Too (4)  
 20. Decay (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

2	1	6	4	3	8	5	9	7
8	8	8	8	8	7	3	2	1
3	7	5	1	2	9	6	6	4
5	8	2	3	9	4	1	7	5
7	4	6	6	1	6	9	5	3
6	3	1	2	7	5	8	4	9
1	2	7	9	5	3	4	6	8
9	6	3	7	4	2	6	1	5
9	5	4	6	8	7	7	3	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Stars necessity; 8 Idolatry; 9 Emma; 10 Tender; 12 Letter; 14 Viter; 16 Ships; 18 Idiot; 20 Thraxer; 22 Carried the day. Down: 1 Landless; 2 Sealed; 3 Best; 4 Pleydies; 5 Account; 6 Skam; 11 Peniles; 13 Especial; 15 Theory; 17 Raaped; 19 Dead; 21 Acts.  
 QUICK - Across: 7 Reprehensible; 8 Composer; 9 Gone; 10 Fodis; 12 Pivach; 14 Adjoin; 16 Decent; 18 Epic; 20 Inwardly; 22 Comprehensive. Down: 1 Desolate; 2 Propel; 3 Thus; 4 Impid; 5 Single; 6 Flare; 11 Consider; 13 Conclave; 16 Occupy; 17 Carass; 19 Poor; 21 Weep.

## Quiz

- What was the first Viscount Montgomery of Alamein's first name?
- Which poet did David Owen hold in the Labour Government from 1977-1979?
- The best-known form of which game is called 8-ball?
- Which actor played Lord Bellamy in *Upstairs, Downstairs*?
- Which condition was also called the king's evil?
- Which comic actor's first talking film was *Monsieur Verdoux*?
- What, in 1959, became the City of London's first new theatre in 200 years?
- What is the name of the 2-day holiday at the start of the Jewish New Year?
- Who was Queen Elizabeth II's father?
- Which partnership wrote *My Fair Lady* and *Paint Your Wagon*?

## Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Ostrogoths; 2 Letchworth; 3 Seraphim;  
 4 TS Eliot; 5 Campbell; 6 Westminster Abbey;  
 7 Fungus; 8 Napaki; 9 Oxford; 10 Loganberry.

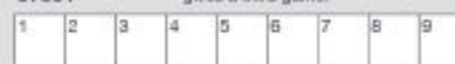
## Niner: POULTICED

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

8628945  
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 87631

gives a game,  
 gives a second game,  
 gives a third game.



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## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deaths



YOUNG

Joseph Alfred

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Formerly of Oswestry.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 2pm.

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15 (15)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 CDTi TECH LINE White, 11,000 miles only.....	£8,995
14 (14)	KIA CEE'D 2.1 6 CRDI Track Red.....	£9,650
14 (14)	FORD MONDEO 1.6CDTi GRAPHITE Silver.....	£9,850
14 (64)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi Acenta Ink Blue.....	£12,450
14 (63)	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE M-NAV Flame Red.....	£8,975
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi Acenta White.....	£7,650
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi Acenta PREMIUM White.....	DUE IN
13 (13)	CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 VTR+, Silver.....	£7,250
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi Exclusive Grey.....	£11,850
12 (62)	PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDi ACTIVE Silver.....	£8,950
12 (12)	SEAT IBIZA 1.2 TDI SE ECOMOTIVE Grey.....	£7,250
11 (11)	KIA VENZA 1.4 CRDI 2 Grey.....	DUE IN
11 (11)	KIA VENZA 1.4 CRDI 2 Grey.....	£4,500
11 (11)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi Acenta Force Red.....	£8,950
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION Silver.....	£6,850
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION Pearl Black.....	£6,850
10 (60)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SRI Black.....	£4,850
09 (59)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi Acenta Cappuccino.....	£6,850
09 (09)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN 5-dr. Silver.....	£4,650
08 (58)	VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT Lovely Condition, Blue.....	£6,850
08 (08)	SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI CLASSIC Silver.....	£3,850
05 (55)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN Black.....	£3,250

### Petrol Selection

14 (64)	TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 Icon Pale Blue.....	DUE IN
14 (64)	KIA PICANTO 2.1 0.5DR, Blaze Red.....	£6,450
14 (14)	MINI ONE COUNTRYMAN (Pepper Pack) Light White.....	£10,450
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 SE Blue.....	£8,950

12 (62)	MINI COOPER S CHILLI PACK 3dr, Grey.....	DUE IN
12 (12)	KIA CEE'D 2.1 6 Planet Blue.....	£6,950
11 (61)	CITROEN DS3 1.6 SPORT Grey.....	£5,850
11 (11)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRI Star Silver.....	£4,650
10 (60)	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA Sport, Blade Silver.....	£6,950
10 (10)	KIA PICANTO 1.1, Strike Blue, 20,000 miles.....	£3,850
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, 6,000 miles, Blue.....	£8,450
10 (10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SRI 5dr, 13,000 miles, Black.....	£8,950
10 (10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SSRI 5dr, 9,000 miles, Grey.....	£8,950
09 (09)	MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE Chilli pack, Horizon Blue.....	£9,650
08 (08)	MAZDA MX-5 2.0 NISKO ROADSTER Silver.....	£7,850
07 (57)	MAZDA MX-5 1.8i CONVERTIBLE Galaxy Grey.....	£5,650
07 (07)	PEUGEOT 207 CC Sport Convertible Red.....	£2,995
06 (56)	PEUGEOT 207 SE 16v 5-dr. Silver Grey, 9,000 miles.....	£5,650
04 (04)	MINI ONE, 1.6 3 door, Silver.....	DUE IN
04 (04)	AUDI A3 2.0 FSI Sport Red.....	£4,850

### 4x4 Selection

15 (15)	SKODA YETI OUTDOOR 2.0 TDI S Black.....	£10,450
14 (14)	SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 S24 Blue.....	DUE IN
13 (63)	SKODA YETI 2.0 TDI ADVENTURE, 4x4 Silver, 29,000 miles.....	£10,850
10 (60)	SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.9 DDIS SZ5.....	£7,850
10 (60)	LAND ROVER FREELANDER T4D CS Grey, 40,000 miles.....	DUE IN
10 (60)	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition, Automatic.....	£10,950
10 (10)	SUBARU IMPREZA 1.5 RX Black, Low Mileage.....	£6,250
09 (59)	VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI SPORT 4x4.....	£8,950
06 (06)	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI XS Blue.....	£2,850

### Automatics

12 (12)	FORD GALAXY 2.0 TDCi ZETEC 7 SEATER Silver.....	£9,250
11 (11)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE Automatic, 3dr, Blue.....	£6,850

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07	JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7 TD AUTO, 79,000 miles, blue metallic.....	£4,495
52	JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles.....	£3,995
V	JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN.....	POA

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63	PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE Diesel, Blue, 30k.....	£6,495
60	VW POLO 1.4, Silver, 50k.....	£4,495
64	CITROEN C1 ELAIR, Silver, Low miles.....	£4,495
60	VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 35k.....	SOLD
10	FORD FIESTA EDGE, Silver.....	SOLD
08	VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History.....	£3,295
09	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SPORT DESIGN, 3 door, Silver.....	£2,995
08	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO SPORTING T-J, Blue, Must Be Seen.....	£2,795
07	BMW 520D SE, high mileage but extensive history, looks great.....	£2,995
56	VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic.....	£2,895
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08	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi BREEZE, Red.....	£2,595
54	FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver.....	£2,495
57	VAUXHALL VECTRA Diesel, Silver.....	£1,695
07	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 3DR, Silver.....	£1,695
57	VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, diesel.....	£1,495
54	VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE. Diesel, very clean & tidy.....	SOLD

### CONVERTIBLES

03	FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible.....	£1,795
04	VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver.....	£1,295

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58	LAND ROVER FREELANDER HSE, Diesel.....	£7,995
06	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0TD Auto, Silver, leather.....	£4,995
11	PEUGEOT PARTNER, White, SLD.....	£4,575
57	SSANGYONG REXTON 2.7 TDI, Silver.....	SOLD
02	JEEP CHEROKEE 3.7 AUTO, Limited Edition, Low Miles for year.....	£1,450
04	RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA 4x4.....	£1,395

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53	NISSAN ALMERA TINO.....	£995
04	CITROEN C3 5DR, Diesel.....	£995
W	BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us.....	£995
55	ASTRA 1.8, Black.....	£750
Y	VAUXHALL ASTRA.....	£500

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## MOTORING

# Top used car buys from experts

Analysis of the used car market by data experts at hpi shows that some vehicles are rising in value due to strong demand.

A combination of factors including the efficiency and low running cost of smaller city cars, a surge in demand for petrol, hybrids and electric vehicles and the continued popularity of SUVs has helped some vehicles to increase in value.

Experts at cap hpi report that this demand helped used car values rise by 0.4% in March with average values increased by 1.2% since the turn of the year, compared to a decline in values of 0.7% last year. The previous strongest year was 2014 when values increased by 0.8%.

A three-year-old Skoda Citigo with 30,000 miles is now worth around £700 more than the same model would have been worth a year ago. There is a similar picture for many other petrol cars of this size, with the Kia Picanto, SEAT Mii and Toyota Aygo all standing out.

A three-year-old Citigo bought in March 2017, with 30,000 miles on the clock, driven for a year adding a further 10,000 miles, would be worth close to £200 more than what the buyer paid for it.

The EV sector has shown similar strength with cars such as the Peugeot Ion, Renault Zoe, Smart Fortwo Electric and the Citroen C-Zero following a similar pattern, these being both EVs and city cars, hence the popularity.

SUVs now account for almost a third of all new car registrations – a considerable increase over the last 10 years. This increasing demand



Some vehicles are rising in value due to demand

is replicated in the used car market, and values have held up well recently, particularly for medium and small-sized SUVs.

Derren Martin, head of current valuations at cap hpi, said: "What we are seeing is some cars in particular sectors increasing in value over a relatively short period. The scale of this is unprecedented as cars are generally regarded as a depreciating asset."

"Some consumers are now starting to reap the rewards of picking up a vehicle 12 months ago, putting 10k miles on the clock and still seeing the vehicle's value rise very steadily

"The sectors showing the main areas of appreciating values continue to be city cars, superminis and lower medium-sized cars.

"Also, some petrol and hybrid SUV prices in the used market have shown real strength in recent months – there is strong demand and currently relatively low supply. Drivers are beginning to warm to EVs as confidence grows in availability and reliability.

"The increase in demand for smaller vehicles that are pushing up values is partly as a result of consumers downsizing but also a desire for petrol vehicles."

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13 NISSA QASHQAI 360 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 62K.....

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13 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION PLUS 16V 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 42K.....

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63 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi 5 DOOR, GREY, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 34K.....

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15 PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £0 ROAD TAX 27K.....

£5,995

61 62 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE 1.7 CDTi 7 SEATS, SILVER, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, CLIMATE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY 67K.....

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09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K.....

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62 FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING, £30 ROAD TAX, 10K.....

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10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K.....

£4,995

11 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, TINTED GLASS, AIR CON. SERVICED AND TIMING BELT FITTED 63K.....

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14 FORD KA EDGE, WHITE 33K.....

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13 FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK, BLACK, 3 DOOR, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING 34K.....

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10 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 60K.....

£4,695

10 CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, £20 ROAD TAX, 52K.....

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14 FORD KA STUDIO, BRIGHT RED, FULL SERV. HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £30 ROAD TAX 21K.....

£4,650

08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC AUTOMATIC, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 34K.....

SOLD

10 RENAULT CLIO1.6 INITIAL E-TOM, AUTOMATIC MET. RED, LEATHER SEATS, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY, 46K.....

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08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 75K.....

£3,795

11 FIAT PUNTO EVO MYLIFE, RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 39K.....

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59 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2 TCE 3 DOOR, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, 46K.....

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11 CITROEN C1 VTR+, WHITE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX 28K.....

£3,695

10 TOYOTA AYGO BLACK VVT-1, 1LT, 5 DOOR, BLACK, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX 48K.....

£3,595

59 VAUXHALL CORSA SXi, 3 DOOR, SILVER, ALLOYS, AIR CON, 51K.....

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57 RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS 3 DOOR, RED, SERVICE HISTORY 75K.....

£2,195

55 VAUXHALL TIGRA EXCLUSIVE HARD TOP CONVERTABLE, BLACK, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, ALLOYS 60K.....

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03 PEUGEOT 206 QUIKSILVER HDI, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 107K.....

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14 FORD TRANSIT 350 DRW CREW CAB TIPPER.....

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66 FORD TRANSIT 350 L3 H3, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 21K.....

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15 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY MAXI LWB START LINE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, BLUE, AIR CON. ELECT. WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 28K.....

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The GSi will stand out in the company car park with its own styling package

# New Vauxhall Insignia GSi is a car to enjoy every day

By Ian Donaldson

Vauxhall insists its new Insignia GSi is 'emphatically not a track car' and then tells you how quick it is around the world's most demanding race circuit.

You then discover that the overtly sporty looking GSi – available in both Grand Sport hatch and Sports Tourer estate shapes – is no more powerful than other models with the same petrol or diesel engines and costing thousands less.

If it all sounds a bit confusing, matters become clearer when you learn the newcomers are simply supposed to be more fun to drive than lesser models (if no faster in a straight line) and that there may be a quicker Insignia along later.

That one will carry a VXR badge, denoting a car that might well end up on a weekend track day, while the less potent GSi tag is reserved for less hot but more affordable cars.

## Quickest

Still, we learn that the new and, for the moment, quickest Insignia was 12 seconds faster around the demanding Nurburgring in Germany's Eifel mountains than the last VXR version ... even though it's not meant to venture on track.

The speed comes from the work done on the suspension and brakes – lowered and stiffened for the first part and fitted with big (and undoubtedly expensive) Brembo front brakes for the second.

The car is also up to an impressive 160kg lighter than the VXR and comes with big 20ins alloy wheels and sticky Michelin Pilot Sport tyres and puts its power down via an all-wheel drive system set up to give a sporty feel as you push out of corners.

Prices start at £32,975 for the Grand Sport diesel with its 210 horsepower 2.0 litre engine, likely to be the most popular choice over the dealer (£33,375) petrol model and its 260hp power unit.

If you need more boot space (or just reckon it looks better), the estate Sports Tourer version adds £1,500 to the bottom line and very mildly dilutes the performance and fuel consumption figures – although you'd never notice.

In hatchback Grand Sport form the diesel will hit 145mph and 62mph in 7.3 seconds, while returning an



Interior temptations include heating for the rim of the steering wheel



There are new front, rear and side panels

official 40.4mpg and 186g/km. The petrol version's figures are 155mph/6.9seconds/32.8mpg/197g/km. Either engine is available in Insignia Elite models that cost up to £4,515 less than you'll pay for the GSi but take that route and you will miss the ability to dial up sporty settings for the suspension as well as goodies like head up display, specially designed front sports seats, paddle shift for the gears, keyless entry and heating for the rim of the chunky, leather wrapped steering wheel.

Other interior temptations include heated front and outer rear seats, massage and cooling also in the front pair, Bose sound system, satellite navigation and Vauxhall's OnStar system that lets you interrogate your car via your mobile phone over matters like remaining fuel range and flash the lights and horn to find it in a car park – very useful in those that cover acres!

The GSi will also stand out in the company car park with its own styling package, running from new front and rear and side panels to visible exhaust pipes and a large rear spoiler – this an option in the rest of Europe but deemed a must have for we extrovert Brits.

Out on a fine selection of Midlands' roads in a diesel GSi (no petrols were available on the UK launch event), the car impressed with its mid-range punch while never feeling gorbliney quick between the corners.

The engine kept its diesel noises to a minimum – sounding almost sportily keen when pushed – and returned a reasonable 33.2mpg over the 70 miles of mostly fast country route.

Even with the sports setting chosen for the suspension the ride stays the right side of too stiff and powerfully confirmed first impressions that the GSi is a car for enjoying every day – but not on the track.

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64 NISSAN JUKE DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr BLUE.....£7,995 £7,695

66 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Style 5dr BLUE.....£8,995 £7,995

14 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 125 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr WHITE.....£8,495 £7,995

64 KIA VENGA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDI EcoDynamics Level 3 5dr SILVER.....£8,495 £7,995

65 MAZDA MAZDA 2 HATCHBACK 1.5 SE-L Nav 5dr RED.....£9,695 £8,995

12 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF CABRIOLET 1.4 TSI GT 2dr WHITE.....£9,695 £9,395

15 MAZDA MAZDA 3 HATCHBACK 2.0 Sport Nav 5dr RED.....£11,995 £11,495

65 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec 5dr BLUE.....£11,995 £11,695

17 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr Powershift BLUE.....£12,995 £11,995

14 FORD MONDEO DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 163 Titanium X Sport 5dr GREY.....£12,995 £11,995

17 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr BLUE.....£13,995 £12,995

17 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr WHITE.....£13,995 £12,995

17 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr BLACK.....£13,995 £12,995

64 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 163 Titanium 5dr Powershift AWD WHITE.....£14,695 £13,995

65 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T EcoBoost ST-3 TANGIERNE SCRAM.....£17,995 £17,495

66 SKODA SUPERB DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDI CR SE L Executive 5dr GREY.....£18,695 £17,995

17 KIA SPORTAGE ESTATE 1.6T GDI GT-Line 5dr [AWD] WHITE.....£21,495 £19,995

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14 CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE DIESEL ESTATE 1.6 HDI 90 VTR 3dr RED.....£8,495

64 CITROEN C4 PICASSO EXCLUSIVE+E-Hdi 5dr BLUE.....£11,995

64 CITROEN GRAND C4 PICASSO DIESEL ESTATE 1.6 e-HDI 115 Airdream Exclusive 5dr 7 Seater GREY.....£10,995

15 DACIA DUSTER DIESEL ESTATE 1.5 dCi 110 Ambiance 5dr GREY.....£6,495

64 FORD B-MAX DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI Zetec 5dr BLUE.....£8,695

66 FORD EDGE 2.0TDCI (Lux Pack) LED Adaptive Lights/Sony Premium Nav/Sunroof RUBY RED.....£26,489

17 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr BLUE.....£12,995

14 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 5dr Blue.....£8,695

64 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr WHITE.....£8,495

16 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr SILVER.....£10,495

62 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 Zetec 5dr [82] SILVER.....£6,295

60 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr WHITE.....£9,995

65 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 TDCI Zetec 5dr BLUE.....£9,495

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## Telford

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04 Reg FORD FUSION ESTATE 1.4 1.1 5dr Auto.....£2,495

09 Reg PEUGEOT 307 COUPE CABRIOLET 1.6 Allure 2dr.....£2,995

09 Reg RENAULT TWINGO HATCHBACK 1.2 TCE GT 3dr.....£2,995

58 Reg CITROEN C4 PICASSO DIESEL ESTATE 1.6HDi 16V VTR Plus 5dr (5 Seat).....£3,995

08 Reg VOLKSWAGEN POLO HATCHBACK 1.2 Match 60 3dr.....£3,995

07 Reg TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr MMT.....£3,995

57 Reg HONDA CIVIC DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2 I-CTDI EX 5dr.....£4,295

60 Reg FIAT 500 HATCHBACK 1.2 Lounge 3dr Dualogic (Start Stop).....£4,995

13 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 Energy 3dr [AC].....£4,995

10 Reg FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.4 TDCI Edge 5dr.....£4,995

07 Reg MAZDA MX-5 CONVERTIBLE 2.0i 2dr.....£5,495

12 Reg SUZUKI SPLASH HATCHBACK 1.2 524 4dr Auto.....£5,995

11 Reg AUDI A1 DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI SE 3dr.....£6,495

14 Reg VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ESTATE 1.8i [120] Exclusiv 5dr.....£6,495

12 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 CDTI 16V SE [165] 5dr Auto.....£6,695

14 Reg NISSAN NOTE HATCHBACK 1.2 Acenta Premium 5dr (Comfort Pack).....£6,695

12 Reg HONDA CIVIC HATCHBACK 1.8 I-VTEC ES 5dr.....£6,995

13 Reg CITROEN DS3 CABRIO 1.6 VTI DStyle 2dr.....£6,995

63 Reg SKODA FABIA HATCHBACK 1.2 TSI 105 Monte Carlo 5dr.....£6,995

13 Reg SEAT TOLEDO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI Ecomotive SE 5dr.....£6,995

15 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 ecoFLEX Excite 3dr [AC].....£7,495

15 Reg HYUNDAI I20 HATCHBACK 1.2 SE 5dr.....£7,495

59 Reg REG NISSAN QASHQAI HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.5 dCi N-Tec 5dr.....£7,495

13 Reg CITROEN C3 PICASSO ESTATE 1.6 VTI 16V Exclusive 5dr EGS6.....£7,695

64 Reg TOYOTA AURIS HATCHBACK 1.4 D-4D Active 5dr.....£7,995

64 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI 115 Zetec Navigator 5dr.....£7,995

64 Reg NISSAN JUKE DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr.....£7,995

17 Reg FORD KA+ HATCHBACK 1.2 Studio 5dr.....£7,995

65 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK 1.25 3dr.....£7,995

66 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 3dr.....£8,295

14 Reg TOYOTA AURIS HATCHBACK 1.33 Duali Vti Ieon 5dr.....£8,495

14 Reg CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE DIESEL ESTATE 1.6 HDI 90 V TR 5dr.....£8,495

63 Reg KIA CEED DIESEL SPORTSWAGON 1.6 CRDI 2 5dr Auto.....£8,495

62 Reg FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr.....£8,495

14 Reg FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 5dr.....£8,495

62 Reg NISSAN JUKE HATCHBACK 1.6 Acenta 5dr [Premium Pack].....£8,495

64 Reg KIA VENGA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CRDI EcoDynamics 3dr.....£8,495

64 Reg FORD B-MAX DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI Titanium X 5dr.....£8,995

64 Reg FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.6 Zetec 5dr.....£8,995

08 Reg HONDA CR-ESTATE 2.0 I-VTEC EX 5dr Auto.....£8,995

66 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Style 5dr.....£8,995

11 Reg HYUNDAI I35S DIESEL ESTATE 1.7 CRDI Premium 5dr 2WD.....£8,995

66 Reg FORD KA+ HATCHBACK 1.2 85 Zetec 3dr.....£8,995

65 Reg MITSUBISHI ASX ESTATE 1.6 3dr.....£8,995

65 Reg RENAULT CLIO HATCHBACK 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S Nav 5dr.....£8,995

16 Reg SKODA RAPID DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI CR 115 S 5dr.....£8,995

64 Reg SKODA YETI ESTATE 1.2 TSI S 5dr.....£8,995

12 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF CABRIOLET 1.4 TSI GT 2dr.....£8,995

15 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 FASTBACK 2.0 SE-L Nav 4dr.....£8,995

16 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.25 3 EcoDynamics 5dr.....£8,995

15 Reg PEUGEOT 3008 ESTATE 1.2 Puretech Active 5dr.....£8,995

15 Reg KIA CEED HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.4 SR7 5dr.....£8,995

14	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 Titanium 5dr Powershift RED.....	£8,695
65	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost ZETEC "S" BLACK EDITION 3dr BLACK/RED.....	£10,695
66	FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec 5dr Auto SILVER.....	£13,695
64	FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 125 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr WHITE.....	£8,695
64	FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI Titanium Navigator EcoNetic 5dr SILVER.....	£9,695
66	FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T EcoBoost ST-3 5dr GREY.....	£20,789
09	FORD FUSION 1.4 TDCI STYLE 5dr BLUE.....	£2,995
64	FORD KUGA ESTATE 1.5 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr 2WD BLACK.....	£15,695
63	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 163 Titanium X 5dr Powershift AWD GREY.....	£13,495
15	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr AWD WHITE.....	£13,495
65	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr GREY.....	£16,495
16	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 150 Titanium 5dr 2WD ORANGE.....	£14,995
64	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI 150 Zetec 5dr SILVER.....	£11,995
65	FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI EcoNetic Titanium 5dr BLUE.....	£15,995
59	HONDA CIVIC HATCHBACK 2.0 I-VTEC Type R GT 3dr Sports hatch RED.....	£7,995
15	KIA CEED HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.4 SR7 5dr RED.....	£9,995
14	KIA CEED DIESEL SPORTSWAGON 1.6 CRDI Level 2 5dr SILVER.....	£9,995
67	KIA NIRO ESTATE 1.6 GDI PHEV 3dr DCT (Hybrid Petrol Electric) BLUE.....	£25,995
16	KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.25 Level 3 EcoDynamics 5dr (Only 3k Miles) BLUE.....	£9,695
65	KIA SPORTAGE ESTATE SPECIAL EDITION 1.6 GDI ISG Axa Edition 5dr WHITE.....	£13,995
15	KIA SPORTAGE DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 CRDI XX-3 5dr [Sat Nav] BLACK.....	£15,695
15	KIA VENGA HATCHBACK 1.6 Level 3 5dr Auto BLUE.....	£10,995
15	MAZDA CX-3 HATCHBACK 2.0 SE-L Nav 5dr Auto RED.....	£14,695
15	MAZDA CX-5 DIESEL ESTATE 2.2d Sport Nav 5dr SILVER.....	£14,995
64	MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER COUPE 1.8i SE 2dr WHITE.....	£12,695
15	MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER COUPE SPECIAL EDS 1.8i Sport Venture Edition 2dr GREY.....	£14,995
07	MAZDA MX-5 CONVERTIBLE 2.0i 2dr RED.....	£5,495
64	MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER COUPE 2.0i Sport Tech 2dr (Private Plate Included) RED.....	£9,995
67	MAZDA MAZDA 2 HATCHBACK 1.5 GT 5dr BLUE.....	£13,989
16	MAZDA MAZDA 2 HATCHBACK 1.5 Sport Nav 5dr SILVER.....	£11,995
67	MAZDA MAZDA 2 HATCHBACK 1.5 Sport Nav 5dr 1496.....	£12,989
17	MAZDA MAZDA 2 DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5d Sport Nav 5dr WHITE.....	£10,489
15	MAZDA MAZDA 3 FASTBACK 2.0 SE-L Nav 4dr BLUE.....	£9,695
67	MAZDA MAZDA 3 DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2d SE-L Nav 5dr SILVER.....	£17,989
13	MAZDA MAZDA 6 TOURER 2.0 Sport Nav 5dr SILVER.....	£11,695
15	MAZDA MAZDA 6 DIESEL SALOON 2.2d Sport Nav 4dr BLUE.....	£12,695
12	MERCEDES SLK250 AMG SPORT Cdi BLUE-EFFICIENCY TIP AUTO GREY.....	£13,495
15	NISSAN QASHQAI HATCHBACK 1.2 DIG-T N-Tec+ 5dr WHITE.....	£14,995
64	NISSAN X-TRAIL DIESEL STATION WAGON 1.6 dCi N-Tec 5dr (7 Seat) GREEN.....	£15,995
16	RENAULT KADJAR HATCHBACK 1.2 TCE Dynamique Nav 5dr GREY.....	£12,995
63	SKODA MAZDA 2 HATCHBACK 1.5 GT 5dr BLUE.....	£13,989
15	TOYOTA RAV4 INVINCIBLE D-4D Auto 4x4 GREY.....	£18,495
64	VAUXHALL ASTRA HATCHBACK 1.6i 16V Elite 5dr BLACK.....	£8,495
65	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CDTI SRI Vx-line Nav 5dr (Start Stop).....	£1,195
64	VAUXHALL MOKKA HATCHBACK 1.6i Tech Line 5dr ORANGE.....	£9,995
62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ESTATE 1.6i Design 5dr 7 Seater RED.....	£7,495

## Telford

65 Reg VAUXHALL INSIGNIA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 CDTI SRI Vx-line Nav 5dr (Start Stop).....£1,195

04 Reg FORD FUSION ESTATE 1.4 1.1 5dr Auto.....£2,495

09 Reg PEUGEOT 307 COUPE CABRIOLET 1.6 Allure 2dr.....£2,995

09 Reg RENAULT TWINGO HATCHBACK 1.2 TCE GT 3dr.....£2,995

58 Reg CITROEN C4 PICASSO DIESEL ESTATE 1.6HDi 16V VTR Plus 5dr (5 Seat).....£3,995

08 Reg VOLKSWAGEN POLO HATCHBACK 1.2 Match 60 3dr.....£3,995

07 Reg TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr MMT.....£3,995

57 Reg HONDA CIVIC DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.2 I-CTDI EX 5dr.....£4,295

60 Reg FIAT 500 HATCHBACK 1.2 Lounge 3dr Dualogic (Start Stop).....£4,995

13 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 Energy 3dr [AC].....£4,995

10 Reg FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.4 TDCI Edge 5dr.....£4,995

07 Reg MAZDA MX-5 CONVERTIBLE 2.0i 2dr.....£5,495

12 Reg SUZUKI SPLASH HATCHBACK 1.2 524 4dr Auto.....£5,995

11 Reg AUDI A1 DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI SE 3dr.....£6,495

14 Reg VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ESTATE 1.8i [120] Exclusiv 5dr.....£6,495

12 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 CDTI 16V SE [165] 5dr Auto.....£6,695

14 Reg NISSAN NOTE HATCHBACK 1.2 Acenta Premium 5dr (Comfort Pack).....£6,695

12 Reg HONDA CIVIC HATCHBACK 1.8 I-VTEC ES 5dr.....£6,995

13 Reg CITROEN DS3 CABRIO 1.6 VTI DStyle 2dr.....£6,995

63 Reg SKODA FABIA HATCHBACK 1.2 TSI 105 Monte Carlo 5dr.....£6,995

13 Reg SEAT TOLEDO DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI Ecomotive SE 5dr.....£6,995

15 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDS 1.4 ecoFLEX Excite 3dr [AC].....£7,495

15 Reg HYUNDAI I20 HATCHBACK 1.2 SE 5dr.....£7,495

59 Reg REG NISSAN QASHQAI HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.5 dCi N-Tec 5dr.....£7,495

13 Reg CITROEN C3 PICASSO ESTATE 1.6 VTI 16V Exclusive 5dr EGS6.....£7,695

64 Reg TOYOTA AURIS HATCHBACK 1.4 D-4D Active 5dr.....£7,995

64 Reg FORD FOCUS

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£20 TAX PER YEAR,  
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ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR  
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WHITE, ONLY 22,000 MILES,  
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ELECTRIC WINDOWS,  
LOW INSURANCE

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## CARS OF THE WEEK

**CITROEN DS3 1.6 E HDI D SPORT PLUS AIRDREAM 110**



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ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON,  
POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC  
WINDOWS, 6 SPEED DIESEL,  
IPOD CONNECTION, LOW  
INSURANCE, IMMACULATE  
CONDITION

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**TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 ICON**



\*\*FREE TAX \*\*\* STILL UNDER  
TOYOTA 5 YEAR WARRANTY,  
ONLY 15,000 MILES, ALLOYS,  
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,  
POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC  
WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE,  
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SV 1.6  
TDI CR SE BLUEMOTION  
TECH**

£20 TAX PER YEAR,  
5 DOOR, DIESEL, ALLOYS,  
CD, AIR CON, P/STEERING,  
E/WINDOWS, LOW  
INSURANCE, EXCELLENT  
MPG, BLUETOOTH,  
IPOD CONN

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**RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI  
DYNAMIQUE S ENERGY**  
\*\*FREE TAX \*\* DIESEL,  
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,  
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,  
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,  
ONLY 25,000 MILES,  
LOW INSURANCE

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**CITROEN C4 1.6E HDI VTR+  
AIRDREAM**  
\*\*FREE TAX \*\* 6 SPEED  
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,  
AIR CON, P/STEERING,  
E/WINDOWS, UPTO 60 MPG,  
PARKING SENSORS,  
LOW INSURANCE

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**CITROEN C3 1.2 VTR+  
PURETECH**  
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,  
5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR  
CON, POWER STEERING,  
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW  
INSURANCE, IMMACULATE  
CONDITION

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**SEAT TOLEDO 1.6 TD  
ECOMOTIVE**

ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,  
HALF LEATHER, ALLOYS,  
SAT NAV, CD PLAYER,  
AIR CON, P/STEERING,  
E/WINDOWS,  
IPOD CONNECTION,  
LOW INSURANCE

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**CHEVROLET SPARK 1.0 LS**

ONLY £30 TAX PER YEAR, 5  
DOOR, UPTO 60 MPG,  
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,  
POWER STEERING,  
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,  
LOW INSURANCE

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**CITROEN C4 CACTUS 1.6  
BLUEHDI FLAIR**

\*\*FREE TAX \*\* 5 DOOR,  
ALLOYS, AIR CON,  
P/STEERING, E/WINDOWS,  
IPOD CONN, BLUETOOTH,  
UNDER CITROEN WARRANTY,  
P/SENSORS,  
EXCELLENT MPG,  
LOW INSURANCE

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Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Blackburn	39	24	10	5	74	36	82
Shrewsbury	40	24	9	7	55	33	81
Wigan	40	21	9	7	55	33	80
Rotherham	40	20	6	14	65	49	61
Peterborough	40	16	13	11	63	49	61
Charlton	39	17	10	12	53	47	61
Preston	39	17	10	12	53	47	61
Portsmouth	40	19	17	11	51	61	61
Scunthorpe	40	15	10	15	48	60	60
Plymouth	39	17	13	11	51	47	60
Bristol Rovers	40	16	8	16	56	60	54
Bradford	39	16	5	17	49	57	51
Southern	40	15	14	11	52	58	58
Fleetwood	40	14	9	17	53	51	51
Doncaster	39	12	13	17	47	45	49
Gillingham	39	12	13	14	47	49	49
Blackpool	40	11	14	15	46	52	47
Oxford Utd	39	12	10	17	45	61	46
Walsall	39	11	17	17	47	58	44
Oldham	38	11	10	17	52	66	43
AFC Wimbledon	39	11	9	19	37	50	40
MK Dons	40	10	16	18	54	42	42
Northampton	41	10	21	36	69	40	40
Rochdale	37	8	14	15	38	46	38
Bury	39	7	9	23	32	59	30

Vanarama National

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Macclesfield	41	24	9	8	58	43	81
Sutton United	40	21	9	10	50	45	72
Boreham Wd.	41	18	15	8	54	37	69
Wrexham	41	17	7	17	47	32	68
Aldershot	41	18	14	9	60	47	68
Tranmere	39	19	10	10	65	67	67
Yeovil	39	18	11	11	63	57	64
AFC Fylde	40	17	11	12	73	51	62
Ebsfleet	39	15	9	15	51	44	60
Bromley	39	16	11	12	63	57	60
Dagenham & R.	40	16	14	10	58	48	58
Eastleigh	40	12	16	12	58	62	52
Leyton Orient	40	13	11	16	49	51	50
Gateshead	38	11	16	11	51	40	49
Maidenhead	39	12	13	14	58	49	49
Hartlepool	41	12	12	17	48	59	48
FC Halifax	40	11	14	15	42	51	47
Maeston	41	11	13	17	48	62	46
Woking	41	18	21	50	68	44	44
Barrow	39	14	15	15	50	67	43
Torquay	40	10	11	19	40	53	41
Solihull Moors	40	10	11	29	38	63	37
Chester	41	6	13	22	34	67	31
Gusery	39	11	13	24	37	29	29

Vanarama National

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Salford City	39	23	7	9	43	37	79
Hargreave	37	23	7	9	43	37	79
Brackley Town	39	17	7	15	62	68	68
Kidderminster	36	11	9	18	44	59	49
Southend Town	37	11	13	19	40	51	49
Stoke Park	35	16	7	12	64	49	55
Spennymoor	32	16	6	10	50	52	54
Blyth Spartans	37	17	17	69	60	62	62
Chorley	35	13	13	13	40	41	52
Shelby	37	11	13	14	39	51	49
Darlington	36	12	11	13	50	47	47
Southport	35	13	14	13	55	61	47
Boston United	35	13	15	17	57	61	46
Grays	35	13	15	17	57	61	46
Leamington	36	12	16	16	55	44	44
FC Utd of Man.	37	12	17	15	57	44	44
Alfreton Town	37	12	16	19	60	63	42
Grays	37	12	16	19	60	63	42
Curzon Ashton	34	10	14	14	50	63	42
AFC Telford Utd	34	11	15	12	48	58	38
Gainsborough	36	11	4	21	40	67	37
North Ferriby	37	8	26	20	93	17	17

Evo-Stik League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Basford United	33	20	8	5	61	39	86
Alvechurch	33	20	8	5	61	39	86
Bedworth United	33	20	8	5	61	39	86
Frickley Athletic	34	20	8	5	61	39	86
Stamford	30	17	10	3	56	22	62
Stamford	31	17	10	3	56	22	62
Chasetown	34	17	10	3	56	22	62
Lincoln United	35	16	4	15	72	54	52
Corby Town	36	16	4	15	72	54	52
Stoke Newington	34	17	10	3	56	22	62
Clitheroes	31	16	9	6	43	40	45
Belper Town	36	12	9	15	45	65	45
Loughborough D.	37	11	7	19	52	72	40
Spalding United	33	17	10	3	56	22	62
Peterborough	30	16	9	5	54	37	66
Newcastle T.	36	9	9	19	43	62	35
Carlton Town	30	9	14	19	49	34	34
Kidsgrove	34	9	18	11	59	34	34
Stoke Newington	34	9	18	11	59	34	34
Greasley	31	8	16	16	34	53	31
M Dray T.	33	7	18	16	32	71	29
Romulus	36	6	10	20	48	85	28

Hallmark Security Lge

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bradford AFC	33	25	3	4	94	29	73
Litherton	33	25	3	4	94	29	73
Whit Alford	31	22	3	6	71	24	69
Prestwich	30	21	3	6	66	36	66
Sandbach	30	21	3	6	66	36	66
Alcester Town	31	20	4	11	68	42	64
Carmel Land	36	15	12	6	67	52	53
AFC Blackpool	33	16	4	13	66	60	53
Holker OB	32	14	6	12	52	66	48
Stockport T.	33	12	7	14	58	43	43
Carleisle City	33	12	4	15	54	40	40
New Mills	29	12	4	13	53	64	40
Abbey Hulton	30	10	12	14	43	37	38
Altherton L.R.	31	11	4	16	50	37	37
St. C. O. C.	32	10	5	15	47	39	39
Cheadle Town	29	9	7	13	45	34	34
Cheddleton	32	8	16	16	59	76	32
Eccleshall	31	8	17	10	40	81	30
Heales Town	32	8	17	10	40	81	30
Bacup Borough	28	4	17	17	38	65	25
Nelson	33	4	8	21	37	75	20
Daisy Hill	31	4	7	20	35	78	19

Midlands Football League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bromsgrove	34	23	6	5	84	38	79
Coleshill Town	34	23	6	5	84	38	79
Worcester City	33	20	8	5	78	34	68
Highgate United	33	20	8	5	78	34	68
Alcester Town	31	18	9	5	59	35	65
Alcester Town	31	18	9	5	59	35	65
Carmel Land	36	15	12	6	67	52	53
AFC Blackpool	33	16	4	13	66	60	53
Holker OB	32	14	6	12	52	66	48
Stockport T.	33	12	7	14	58	43	43
Carleisle City	33	12	4	15	54	40	40
New Mills	29	12	4	13	53	64	40
Abbey Hulton	30	10	12	14	43	37	38
Altherton L.R.	31	11	4	16	50	37	37
St. C. O. C.	32	10	5	15	47	39	39
Cheadle Town	29	9	7	13	45	34	34
Cheddleton	32	8	16	16	59	76	32
Eccleshall	31	8	17	10	40	81	30
Heales Town	32	8	17	10	40	81	30
Bacup Borough	28	4	17	17	38	65	25
Nelson	33	4	8	21	37	75	20
Daisy Hill	31	4	7	20	35	78	19

Midlands Football League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bromsgrove	34	23	6	5	84	38	79
Coleshill Town	34	23	6	5	84	38	79
Worcester City	33	20	8	5	78	34	68
Highgate United	33	20	8	5	78	34	68
Alcester Town	31	18	9	5	59	35	65
Alcester Town	31	18	9	5	59	35	65
Carmel Land	36	15	12	6	67	52	53
AFC Blackpool	33	16	4	13	66	60	53
Holker OB	32	14	6	12	52	66	48
Stockport T.	33	12	7	14	58	43	43
Carleisle City	33	12	4	15	54	40	40
New Mills	29	12	4	13	53	64	40
Abbey Hulton	30	10	12	14	43	37	38
Altherton L.R.	31	11	4	16	50	37	37
St. C. O. C.	32	10	5	15	47	39	39
Cheadle Town	29	9	7	13	45	34	34
Cheddleton	32	8	16	16	59	76	32
Eccleshall	31	8	17	10	40	81	30
Heales Town	32	8	17	10	40	81	30
Bacup Borough	28	4	17	17	38	65	25
Nelson	33	4	8	21	37	75	20
Daisy Hill	31	4	7	20	35	78	19

West Midlands (Regional) League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
W'Ton Sporting	22	2	2	103	21	68	
Malvern Town	29	20	5	4	89	44	65
Black Oak Rang.	31	18	8	5	93	46	62
Twickenham	29	18	4	7	81	32	61
Wendlesfield	29	18	5	6	90	50	59
Bewdley Town	30	17	6	7	80	47	57
Ellesmere	29	16	4	9	71	51	52
Cradley Town	28	15	4	9	60	42	48
W'Ton Casuals	30	15	3	12	99	68	48
Bilston Town	35	14	4	17	72	81	46
Wellington	28	14	3	11	64	52	45
Hereford Lads	29	13	3	13	58	64	42
Shifnal Town	29	8	3	18	47	84	27
AFC Bridgnorth	30	7	5	18	41	71	26
Pegasus Jun	30	6	7	17	32	76	25
Craven Arms	17	3	13	22	65	10	16
Smethwick	27	7	3	17	34	62	24
Stone Old A.	27	7	3	17	34	62	24
Dudley Town	36	6	5	20	34	81	23
Dudley Sports	30	6	3	21	40	86	21
Wellington Am's	30	1	7	22	26	119	10

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Town	28	21	5	5	80	31	65
ort Town	26	15	5	9	34	33	53
athletic	27	16	4	7	65	41	52
ston	25	14	5	6	64	48	47
artins	25	15	0	10	64	39	45
Dudley	26	13	5	8	73	53	44
Wulfs	23	12	7	4	33	20	43
ester	24	12	5	7	53	50	41
eholme	25	11	2	12	53	64	35
ayward	24	10	2	12	51	59	32
on Town	24	9	3	12	41	53	30
st West	22	8	1	13	34	46	25
oss	24	7	3	14	38	53	24
rd Jun	25	6	2	16	38	67	20
on Town	24	6	1	17	35	59	19
ay	24	3	4	17	27	72	13
hahll	22	2	1	15	23	74	11

## Theobald is bowled over with trophy at Wynnstay



Steve Theobald (left) with runner-up Brian Cowley holding their trophies

WYNNSTAY Bowling Club's indoor bowling season is now over - with the new outdoor crown green grass bowling season opening up on Thursday April 5.

So all indoor scores of the 37 participants have been added up, to see whose name will be engraved on the 'Indoor Bowls' trophy.

This year the honours go to club member Steve Theobald with 166 points from the nine session season, with Brian Cowley the runner-up, 26 behind with 143 points.

If you fancy joining the Wynnstay Bowling Club, with the gentle and fun exercise it provides, turn up at the crown green directly behind the Wynnstay Hotel, any Monday or Thursday at 2pm and ask for a committee member.

You will be made most welcome with membership costs just over £1 for the two weekly session, at £33 for the full season that runs till the first week of October.

This is Steve's first entry on the trophy, which was won last year by

## Whitfield steps in as chairman of Vets' League

SHROPSHIRE'S biggest veterans bowls league has a new chairman.

Roger Whitfield took over the role for the Salop Leisure Shrewsbury Senior Citizens League at its pre-season meeting at Meole Brace BC. The Battlefield stalwart was the only nomination to succeed Dave Kibbler, who stood down for health reasons and has now been made a life member.

Salop Leisure have confirmed they are continuing with their sponsorship, raising it by £50 to £350 per year, while Green Thumb and Copy Write (Coleham) have been recruited as competition supporters.

But Severnside will no longer be the league's base for those competitions as secretary Chris Kershaw confirmed the Shrewsbury club had declined the use of their facilities.

## Tigers sign off in style

DESPITE having secured the Oswestry Table Tennis League division one title, Morda Tigers showed no mercy to strugglers Llanilin A in their last game of the season.

The Tigers trio of Huw Jones, Jason Hughes and Jeremy Chavez were firing on all cylinders to win their singles matches with relative ease in setting up in 10-0 white-wash - leaving the team unbeaten throughout the season.

The Morda high fliers secured the title for a third consecutive season the week before with a 10-0 drubbing of Myddle.

# Welshpool stuck in mud at Newtown

THE weather was the real winner as Welshpool slipped to a 17-8 reverse in a mudbath away to Powys rivals Newtown in rugby's Welsh League division two (north).

Heavy overnight rain made for atrocious conditions, but Pool dug deep to lead 3-0 at the break courtesy of a penalty from full-back Andrew Thomas.

Newtown dominated territory but were kept at bay by some determined defence as the Maesydre visitors looked to avenge a recent narrow defeat in the Conwy LandRover North Wales Intermediate

Cup.

However, they were up against it after the break as their local rivals emerged with renewed purpose to take the lead with a converted try and penalty.

A penalty try then saw Newtown go 17-3 up but, after the hosts had a player yellow carded, Welshpool finished strongly with winger Matt Roberts going over in the corner.

They had a chance to pick up a losing bonus point, but Thomas missed the testing conversion from wide out.

Although there is no relegation this season, Pool will want to finish their campaign on a high in their last three outings.

They host struggling Abergele on Saturday (2.30) as they bid to get back to winning ways in what is also their sponsors day at Maesydre.

**OSWESTRY**, edged out 22-20 at mid-table rivals Port Sunlight in their last action in the South Lincs and Cheshire Two, return to duty at home to Isle of Man side Vagabonds on Saturday (3pm).

# Olympian aces race to county medal joy

ATHLETICS by John Bridgwater

**BUOYANT Oswestry Olympians returned home with a clutch of medals after enjoying a highly successful outing in the Shropshire County Sportshall Championships held at Much Wenlock.**

Leading the way were Ellen Gray, Aaron Warburton and Tom Hotchkiss who each won three medals, two of which were gold.

Ellen made an excellent start by winning her under-11 two laps heat to reach the final where she finished in the silver medal position.

She returned to the track and secured Oswestry's first gold of the day by winning a very close two-laps hurdles race, while a leap of 1.80 metres in the standing long jump was enough to win her a second gold after count back.

Oswestry's other under-11 star Aaron Warburton, who like Ellen was selected to compete for Shropshire this season, made an impressive start by winning his heats in the two-laps and four-laps by significant margins.

He then gained his first gold, winning the standing long jump just two centimetres ahead of Oswestry's third under-11 county team member Harry Heard who took silver. Harry then gained a gold himself with an outstanding soft javelin throw of 19.5 metres.

### Well-paced

The efforts in the heats took its toll on Aaron when he came second in the two laps final before he regained his supremacy by taking his second gold in the four laps race.

The under-13 boys event saw three Olympians in the final of the two-laps race. Tom Hotchkiss ran a well paced race to take the gold just ahead of his Marches classmate and fellow Shropshire athlete, Luke Steel, who took the silver.

Tom was soon back on the track for the three-laps competition in which he finished third with the same time as the runner in second place.

Tom's second gold came in the standing long jump with a leap of over 2 metres.

A silver in the Vertical Jump earned Markus Tins a silver and bodes well for the future as he will still qualify for this age group next year.



Medallists All - Oswestry Olympian Juniors with their haul of 15 medals from the Shropshire County Sportshall Championships. From left (back): Mia Wyatt, Tom Hotchkiss, Aaron Warburton and Ellen Gray. (Front): Markus Tins, Luke Steel and Harry Heard

Mia Wyatt, who has already represented the county in cross country this season, showed her versatility by winning her first ever medal, taking bronze in the three laps race, just one tenth of a second behind the first and second placed runners.

She then went one better, finishing in the silver position in the five-laps race to bring Oswestry Olympians' haul of medals to 15 - seven of which were gold.

That event concludes the Sportshall season for

# Mile End look to develop junior section

GOLF by John Bridgwater

can inspire people to want to have a go at golf."

Bob wants to encourage young people, irrespective of background or ability, or whether they have played golf before or not, to come along and can get the support they need to learn how to play or to improve their game.

Mile End is a modern, family-orientated golf club that welcomes those accompanying children, and ensures that activities for juniors meet safeguarding and child protection standards.

As such, the club is getting involved in The New Saints Foundation Easter activities - on Monday April 9 (11am-2pm at Gobowen playing fields); Wednesday April 11 (3pm-5pm at Oswestry Cae Glas Park) and Friday April 13 (3pm-5pm at Oswestry Gatacre playing fields).

Mile End is also offering three free coaching ses-

sions, with all equipment provided, for young people up to 18 years of age on Wednesdays April 11, 18 and 25 (5pm-7pm).

Those interested, can turn up when they want within this time slot.

The sessions are flexible and are tailored to the individual, starting with coaching on the two-tier golf range, and perhaps ending with practice on the golf course. Juniors' night will continue on Wednesdays between 5pm-7pm.

For those wanting to play as a family, Mile End is currently offering taster half price "Have a go at golf" sessions on the club's golf range with all equipment provided for £2.50 each. This offer can be taken up any time from 9am-3pm from now until June 2018.

To take up the offers or find out more about golf, Mile End Golf Club is located just outside Oswestry on the Old Shrewsbury Road SY11 4JF, telephone 01691 671246 or [www.mileendgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.mileendgolfclub.co.uk).

## The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

### Oswestry

**Division 1:** 1 Christian Smith 38, 2 Martin Jenks 37, 3 Mark White 36; **Division 2:** 1 Stuart Foulkes 36, 2 Phil Jennings 36, 3 Jordan Watkins 34; **Division 3:** 1 Rhys Matthews 36, 2 Steven Pierce 35, 3 Steve Chambers 32.

**Ladies EWGA Medal - Div 1:** 1 Marie Male 96-19=77, 2 Margaret Dunbar 96-18=78, 3 Janet Williams 99-20=79; **Div 2:** 1 Helen Whiting 96-26=70, 2 Ann Garbett 94-22=72, 3 Jenny Lloyd 103-27=76; **Div 3:** 1 Ann Johnson 108-39=69, 2 Loren Dearing 112-35=77, 3 Maureen Crane 116-34=82.

### Hill Valley

**March Medal:** 1 D Minshall 94-17=77, 2 S Ratcliffe 99-17=82, 3 L Taylor 122-36=86.

### The Brow

**A & V Joinery Comp:** 1 Peter Morris 40pts, 2 Ian Davies 37pts, 3 Terry Brough 37pt.

**J & K Transport Comp:** 1 Ed Davies +3; 2. Peter Morris +2; 3 Terry Brough +1.

### Llanymynech

**4BBB Medal:** 1 Jason Bailey & Steve Jones 58 nett; 2 Nick Clewlow & Phil Jones 62 nett; 3 Martyn Smith & Colin Jones 64 nett (b9). Team result: Captain 4 Vice-Captain 11.

**Gordon Passant Trophy:** Jason Bailey & Steve Jones.

**Ladies' Dilys Jones Qualifier:** 1 Katey Andrew 73pts, 2 Gwenan Davies 73pts, 3 Annie Evans 73pts.

**March Medal - Div 1:** 1 Val J Jones 101-20 = 81pts, 2 Julia Line 94-10 = 84pts; **Div 2:** 1 Katey Andrew 97-24=73, 2 Gwenan Davies 94 -21= 73; **Div 3:** 1 Annie Prince 109-31= 78, 2 Jean Barlow 128 -35=93.

### Hawkstone Park

**Division 1:** 1 Richard Jones-Roberts 41pts, 2 Paul Greatbatch 40pts, 3 David Robson 38pts; **Div 2:** 1 Mike Shortman 34pts, 2 Ray Tierman 33pts, 3 Clive Tinsley 33pts.

### Wrekin

**Spring Swing:** 1 B Northwood, D Northwood, R Parkes & D Fisher 121; 2 S Greenfield, T Dawes, N Armstrong, A Armstrong 119; 3 J Trehearne, S Black, C Millward, A Smith 118.

## Four Crosses lose out in Emrys final

FOUR Crosses saw their hopes of lifting the Emrys Morgan Cup dashed after being downed 5-0 by Newcastle Emlyn in the final at Rhayader's Weirglodd.

Although Llanfair United Reserves famously lifted the trophy two years ago, only a handful of Montgomeryshire clubs have triumphed in recent times.

And the Foxen Manor club, despite impressing en route to the final, were unable to join the list as they found themselves well beaten despite their efforts.

They battled hard, but Newcastle Emlyn held the upper hand as they claimed the trophy for a fourth time in their history.

It was a disappointing outcome, but Four Crosses will now turn their thoughts to gaining promotion from the Montgomeryshire League division one in the coming weeks.

It was their second defeat at the hands of Emlyn this season, having also lost 3-1 after extra-time in Central Wales Cup a few months back.

Meanwhile, the Montgomeryshire League was again decimated as wet weather saw a string of games postponed due to unfit pitches.

## Singles KO to celebrate

SHROPSHIRE'S top league will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a special event for its longest-serving title winners.

The big day for Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier League is Sunday, August 19 - at venue to be confirmed - when big names, past and present, will be invited to take part in a singles KO.

"There are 59 bowlers still playing who have won a Merit, Doubles, League Averages, Most Consecutive Wins, MVPs and Top 16 competition," said Premier chief Rob Burroughs.

Entry costs £10 and clubs decided to each donate £20 towards the prize money.

■ The full house signs have gone up on a Shropshire open competition. The Candlin Doubles is full at Telford club Sinclair after all 32 places in the one-day on Sunday, April 8, were booked.

## GUILDSFIELD left kicking their heels after rain

GUILDSFIELD lost ground on the leading pack in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after their trip to Gresford Athletic was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Only two fixtures survived in the league as the weather claimed another five fixtures to make it 18 postponements for the month of March - and 50 for the season.

League leaders Caernarfon Town's home game was one of the two survivors as they tightened their grip at the top with a 5-3 victory over Caersws. They are nine points clear of the fourth placed Guils who have three games remaining.

The high flying Cofis were three goals to the good after 27 minutes with Gareth Edwards finding the net twice and Jamie Crowther also on target. Darren Thomas made it four three minutes before break with Aron Hughes Jones pulling a goal back for the Bluebirds in first half stoppage time.

Steve Blenkinsop netted another for Caersws seven minutes into the second half only for ex-Welshpool striker Jamie Breeze to score Caernarfon's fifth three minutes later.

To their credit, Caersws kept battling away and added their third through Craig Harris, but it was another tough day for the Mid Wales men who continue to flirt with relegation danger.

Second placed Airbus UK Broughton are now five points clear of Guilsfield after their 5-0 romp away to Holyhead Hotspur in the only other game to beat the weather.

Airbus were ahead after 13 minutes through Leo Riley and they doubled their lead with Ryan Edwards on target five minutes before the break. Nathan Quirk converted a penalty eight minutes into the second half to extend the advantage, but they found themselves down to 10 men after the dismissal of goalscorer Riley.

Despite a player short, the Wingmakers cemented a comfortable victory with substitute James Hopper netting twice in the last 10 minutes.

■ THE wet weather left its mark on the scheduled Easter fixtures for a host of local football clubs in the West Midlands League. Ellesmere Rangers had been due to travel across Shropshire to face Wellington Amateurs, the premier division's bottom club, but the fixture was called off owing to the pitch being unplayable.

The Beech Grove men are away to second-bottom Dudley Sports on Saturday.

It was a similar story for Wem Town, 12 points clear at the top of the first division, who will now have to rearrange their postponed trip to Herefordshire club Bromyard. Josh Gough's Wem are away to Wrens Nest on Saturday.

# Rare off-night for New Saints champs

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**DEAN Rittenberg's early strike proved enough to sentence The New Saints to their second JD Welsh Premier defeat of the season at the hands of Bangor City at Nantporth.**

TNS suffered a 5-2 loss in their last visit on the opening night of the campaign, and it proved another disappointing return for the newly crowned champions as they lost 1-0.

They had more than enough opportunities, but failed to find a way through a solid home defence with keeper Matthew Hall pulling off some fine saves to deny top scorer Greg Draper.

TNS boss Scott Ruscoe felt his high-flying side deserved more for their efforts after dominating much of the encounter.

"I was disappointed with the result, but not the performance," he said.

"On other days, we could have scored four or five. We must have had about 70 per cent possession. The tempo of our play was good, but we have to be more ruthless and clinical."

Making six changes, with youngsters Chris Craven and Ben Clark given a chance, the Saints started brightly with Tom Holland firing over before Draper forced Hall into a good save.

But it was the Citizens who got their noses in front on 10 minutes through Rittenberg after launching a swift raid down the right.

Danny Holmes broke to the byline before crossing for Alex Darlington whose header was saved low down by Paul Harrison before the former TNS striker fired the rebound back towards goal, and Rittenberg poked in from close range.

Hall then pulled off another good stop to keep out the predatory Draper, who was looking to add to his 19 goals this season, while Simon Spender's 20-yard strike also flew wide.

Luke Wall was off target at the other end, and goalscorer Rittenberg was crowded out in a promising position for the hosts.

The Saints were finding it difficult to break down a well drilled Bangor defence, but were almost level a minute before half time.

Craven broke down the right before crossing for Draper whose shot was turned onto the bar, before being put out for a corner.

The league leaders pushed after the break, with Hall again called into action on the hour to block Draper's effort from an Aeron Edwards through ball.

With TNS stepping up the pressure, Hall then pulled off a terrific save to deny Draper from Spender's incisive pass with 10 minutes remaining. The visitors continued to push, but City dug in to secure a valuable victory that saw them stay joint second in the table.

Bangor boss Kevin Nicholson was naturally delighted with the result that boosted his side's hopes for European qualification, but felt his players could do better.

"Our performance was not a true reflection of how we've been playing this season, but at this stage it's all about results," he said.

Meanwhile, Newtown - who guaranteed league survival the week before - turned in a lacklustre showing as they slumped 3-2 at home to lowly Carmarthen Town.

## Town suffer late disappointment



Town's Ryan Jones opens the scoring and (below) Gary Meredith heads clear. ■ *Pics: Nick Evans-Jones*

FC Oswestry Town's frustrating spell in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one continued after being held 2-2 Abbey Hulton United at Park Hall.

In what has been a weather disrupted last three months, Town have not won in the league since prevailing 1-0 against Chadderton back on January 6.

They have prevailed just twice this year, with their other victory coming when they dispatched Ellesmere Rangers 4-1 in the Shropshire Senior Cup, also back in mid-January.

Since then, they have gone eight games without further success in all competitions - a run which includes four defeats and four draws.

Frustratingly, Town were in sight of getting back to winning ways after twice leading in last Saturday's encounter.

Ryan Jones fired home the first on the half hour to carve an interval lead before Joshua Tune levelled after the break.

Tom Rowlands restored the home advantage on 75 minutes to put the hosts in sight of victory, but the visitors from Staffordshire had other ideas as Joshua Walker pounced for a second equaliser five minutes from time.



## Alport are chasing a ninth win on travels

WHITCHURCH ALPORT will be chasing a ninth successive away win in the North West Counties League when they make the long trip north to Cumbria to face Holker Old Boys on Saturday.

It signals the start of a busy period for happy travellers Alport.

They host AFC Blackpool under the Yockings Park lights on Monday night (7.45pm) before travelling to Alsager LR on Wednesday evening.

Alport, whose scheduled Easter Monday home game with FC Oswestry Town fell victim to a waterlogged pitch, were 2-0 winners at Bolton-based Daisy Hill last weekend to keep their automatic promotion hopes alive.

A goal in each half from Lee Pickerill and Dean Twigg wrapped up the three points against the first division's bottom club who acquitted themselves well on a very heavy pitch.

Sam Grimshaw made his debut for Whitchurch and gave an excellent performance which earned him the man of the match award.

Nick Marley and Grimshaw both had early attempts on goal, with the latter firing at Craig Haynes from a tight angle, and then Haynes did well to keep out Pickerill at the front post.

But 20 minutes in the left winger kept his composure from 12 yards after Grimshaw had found him in space 12 yards out. Haynes rushed from his line but Pickerill confidently picked out the corner with his trusty left foot.

The travelling supporters had a second goal to celebrate eight minutes from time when Mike Blundell's first touch opened the door for Grimshaw. His shot beat Haynes but struck the base of the post and Twigg knocked in the rebound.

Meanwhile, Alport's hopes of reaching the TJ Vickers Shropshire Premier Cup final were dashed last midweek as they lost 2-1 to Newport Town after extra-time in the re-arranged semi-final played at the home of Market Drayton Town.

Nicky Porterford fired Alport in front on the stroke of half time but Newport hit back to ensure they will face Shrewsbury-based Haughmond in the final later in the season.

## Saints keep up pace in the title race

TWO early goals helped St Martins keep alive their promotion hopes in the West Midlands League division one with a 3-0 win over Team Dudley at Park Hall.

The Saints were soon on the front foot with Dave Hartshorn opening the scoring on 18 minutes after a pull back from Shawn Melusi, and just two minutes later Harrison Millington broke through to dink the ball over the keeper following a pass from man-of-the-match Jamie Hands.

The hosts had enough chances to have been well clear, Dave Easthope putting a header wide, while Millington and Hartshorn had other efforts.

Team Dudley missed a golden chance when firing over with the goal beckoning, while at the other end Melusi also had a goal disallowed.

Chances came and went, before some neat footwork saw Hartshorn wrap up the points with a third on 75 minutes.

The Saints had been due to visit second placed Newport Town in a crucial encounter in their promotion quest last Saturday, but for the second time, the game fell foul of the weather when called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

## TNS' U19s win the title

TNS Professional Phase emulated the recent first team's title success by winning the JD Welsh Premier Development (North).

The under-19s swept aside Connaught's Quay Nomads 5-1 at Park Hall to ensure they cannot be caught at the top of the table.

The lads raced into a two-goal lead through Liam Parry and Harry Bower, but were pegged back by a penalty from ex-TNS player Joe Sullivan on the stroke of half time.

After withstanding some pressure from the visitors after the break, they killed the game off with a three-minute hat-trick from Harry Bower to take his tally to four.

The new champions hosted Bangor City on Tuesday night before taking on Llandudno in their last league game of the season on Sunday (2pm) when their presentation of the league trophy will be made.

# Dan's the man in Llanrhaeadr goal spree

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

The striker opened his account 10 minutes from time, before adding two more in the last couple of minutes to complete an emphatic victory.

Welshpool Town remained a point clear at the top after brushing aside Radnor Valley 4-1 at Maesydre courtesy of goals from Ricky Litchfield, Will Thomas, Ian Probert (penalty) and player of the month Adam Davies.

Llanfair United are looking good for a top five finish after hitting back to overcome close rivals Carno 3-1 at the Mount.

After falling behind on the half hour to an opener from Scott Williams, the visitors were level right on the interval through Ben Jones.

Josh Astley then put Llanfair ahead on 75 minutes when converting the rebound off the post following good work by Andy Hughes, before a smart finish a minute from time courtesy of Paul Griffiths secured the points.

Berriew slipped to a surprise 2-1 reverse at struggling Machynlleth, Harry Watkins getting their consolation.

Bow Street continued their good run of form

# Sport

**Athletics**  
Olympians race  
to medals – P38

**Football**  
FC Oswestry in  
the picture – P39



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## New Saints champs are resting up

THE New Saints have a rare weekend off as the JD Welsh Cup semi-finals take centre stage this weekend.

For the first time since 2010, the six times winners of the cup are not involved in the last four after being knocked out in the quarter-finals by Connah's Quay Nomads last month.

So the league champions take a breather on Saturday before resuming their Welsh Premier campaign with a trip to Bala Town the following Friday (13 April).

The season concludes with two further Friday night outings - both at home to Connah's Quay and Cardiff Met University.

After their 1-0 loss at Bangor City, their second defeat away to the Citizens this season, the Saints will be looking to finish the campaign on a high in the coming weeks.

"We had our chances, but were not ruthless and clinical enough," said manager Scott Ruscoe.

"I was disappointed with the result, but not the performance.

"On other days, we could have scored four or five. We must have had about 70 per cent possession, but it was not to be our day.

"We started well, and the tempo of our play was good."

With defenders Ryan Pryce and Steve Saunders injured, the Saints made six changes from the side that defeated Cefn Druids 5-1 the week before when they were officially crowned league champions for a seventh successive season.

Several youngsters were given a chance, including Chris Craven and Ben Clark, while Harry Bower and Callum Jones came on as late substitutes.

Bower, meanwhile scored four times as the TNS Professional Phase clinched the JD Welsh Premier Development (North) crown with a 5-1 beating of Connah's Quay Nomads at Park Hall.

The presentation of the trophy will be made on Sunday when the team entertain Llandudno in their last game of the season (2pm).

■ TNS Ladies return to duty in the FA Womens Premier League Midlands division one with Sunday's trip to Leicester City Ladies.

## Llansantffraid at home in cup semi

IN-FORM Llansantffraid Village have been drawn at home to Abermule in the semi-final of the Spar League's ER Jenkins Cup.

In the other last four tie, Montgomery visit Hay St Mary's. Both ties to be played in May.

Meanwhile, Berriew are looking good to lift the Spar Mid Wales League's fair play title in division one after forging a healthy lead at the top of the table, with Kerry in second spot.

Llansantffraid are third in the division two standings, trailing Penybont and Builth Wells.

# COBRA STUN THE LEADERS

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

**COBRA'S rugby players boosted their credentials in the Welsh League division two (north) after producing an eye-catching performance to become the first side to defeat runaway leaders Denbigh.**

Player coach Rhodri Jones praised the Meifod team's "self belief" following their stunning 13-0 success over the likely champions who had swept all before them this season in winning all 15 games while amassing close to 1,000 points.

The victory was all the more remarkable with COBRA making the trip with a weakened team - and also having two players yellow carded in the second half.

"It was a really good defensive effort, and the first 20 minutes set the tone," said Jones. "We were quick off the line and put in some strong tackles, and showed a lot of self belief.

"We were short with a number of boys lambing, but there was a good feeling going up there on the bus, and we were determined to do a good job.

"It has been a stop-start season, but we got back into our stride in the second half against Abergele the week before, and took that performance forward.

"To go there and beat the league leaders on their own pitch takes some doing, particularly as we played with 14 men for about 15 minutes of the second half."

### Momentum

COBRA's form this season had been mixed, with a string of blank weekends halting their momentum and scuppering any realistic chances of promotion back to the first division.

They have little time to rest on their laurels as they come face to face with the league leaders again on Saturday, this time at home.

Scrum half Bryn Davies darted over after a quick tap penalty, with Will Worthington converting. Worthington added a couple of penalties to extend the lead, and the visitors held firm despite having second row Lloyd Bright and prop Hywel Jones sin binned in quick succession.

Having been edged out 17-8 at Powys rivals Newtown in a mud bath last weekend, WELSHPOOL will want to finish their campaign on a high. With three games left, they host struggling Abergele on Saturday (2.30) in what is also their sponsors day at Maesydre.

After a weekend off, OSWESTRY return to duty in the South Lincs and Cheshire Two when they welcome Isle of Man side Vagabonds on Saturday (3pm).

There was a try fest for the Eagles second string who trounced Bowden III 83-17 in the North West League division four (south).

## Juniors can get into the swing



Oswestry Golf Club trio Tom Matthews, Daniel Haycocks and Daniel Potts who won the Charles Lewis Team Shield at the County Junior Boys Spring meeting

OSWESTRY Golf Club's junior section swings into action on Friday with an introductory evening for new junior members.

It's a chance for the youngsters and their parents to come along and meet the organisers led by Judith Thornell, the club professional Richard Edwards and the new junior captain for 2018 Joe Edwards.

The junior evenings then get under way in earnest the following Friday, April 13, with the younger members taking to the practice ground with head professional Richard Edwards for lessons and fun games, while the older juniors will start the nine hole season.

Junior membership at the club allows the young players to learn the basics from playing the game, to the etiquette and sportsmanship associated with golf.

They are also given numerous competitions to enter throughout the year with a full fixture list is planned.

Newcomers can come along for two free sessions, and can then either join as a member, with membership starting at just £50 for the year, or can pay a £5 fee each week to take part in the coaching sessions.

Sessions run from 5.30pm, but players should arrive by 4.45pm at the latest.

## Pool look to book up semi spot

HIGH-FLYING Welshpool Town hope for a repeat showing as they bid to secure their semi-final place in the Spar Mid Wales League Cup.

Just a week after brushing aside Radnor Valley 4-1 in the league, Pool again face the villagers at Maesydre - this time in the last eight of the cup.

Llanfair United will also have their sights on a semi-final place when they entertain Knighton Town - having twice defeated their hosts in recent weeks.

Holders Berriew face a tough quarter-final trek to in-form Bow Street and will face either Carno and Aberaeron in the last four should they prevail.

Semi-final draw: Bow Street or Berriew v Carno or Aberaeron, Welshpool Town or Radnor Valley v Llanfair Utd or Knighton Town. Ties to be played at neutral venues in May.

■ Llanrhaeadr's hopes of going top of the Spar Mid Wales League division one were thwarted as their Easter Monday trip to Carno succumbed to the wet weather.

Victory on Monday would have taken them clear at the summit - but the day's fixture list was again wiped out by rain and snow.

With Welshpool in league cup action, Llan have another chance to take over at the summit when they host Llandrindod Wells on Saturday (2.30).

■ Berriew are mourning the death of long serving club president Philip Jones who passed away over the weekend.

## Ifton bowlers are ready to roll again

IFTON will be hoping for improved fortunes when the new season of the Sallap Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League rolls in on Friday night.

The St Martins side finished a disappointing second bottom last term, so will want a higher finish this time around, starting with a trip to south Shropshire side Burway. Their first home outing is against Chester Road the following week.

Champions Castlefields launch the defence of their title with a trip to Hanwood, while runners-up Sir John Bayley are away to Bowring.

Elsewhere on the opening night, Chester Road welcome Hammer, while Meole Brace play host to Newport.

St Georges tackle Wem USC, who finished bottom last term, while the other action sees Wrockwardine Wood take on visitors Bylet.

## Fifth time lucky?

GUILDSFIELD'S long running saga in the Huws Gray Cup continues after their first round clash with Holyhead Hotspur was postponed for the FOURTH time.

The latest call-off came on Easter Monday when their Clos Mytton pitch was left waterlogged following heavy overnight rain. Weather permitting, the teams will try for the fifth time on Saturday with the first round tie having now been switched back to Holyhead.



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